





"Telling it like it is," Humboldt County Cattlemen's Association meeting, 1960. (Farm advisor John Dunbar in background at left.)



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THE COLLEGE COWBOY:

REUBEN ALBAUGH

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Introduction by J. Earl Coke

Interviews conducted by  
John E. Spurlock, Julius Trescony  
and Ken Ellis

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the presentation of the intimacy, candor and spontaneity which give each memoir freshness and charm. However, standard and recognized editorial techniques are used to maintain a consistency in style throughout all oral history project publications. Since basically each title is for University archival deposit, such matters as dates, names, places, and significant terminology must be presented with the greatest precision. Editors will rely on the Chicago Manual of Style (1969) and the project's own style sheet to maintain an optimal printed version of the spoken word.



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The procedures of our oral history projects include not only the tape recording of memoirs but also their transcription, editing, and eventual production in book form. What is presented to the reader is a version of the spoken word, and overt attempts to mask this fact rob the presentation of the intimacy, candor and spontaneity which give each memoir freshness and charm. However, standard and recognized editorial techniques are used to maintain a consistency of style throughout all oral history project publications. Since basically each title is for University archival deposit, such matters as dates, names, places, and scientific terminology must be presented with the utmost precision. Editors will rely on the Chicago Manual of Style (1969) and the project's own style sheet to maintain an optimal printed version of the spoken word.

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Because of Rube's decisive and direct approach, and yet with the correct amount of diplomacy, many advancements in the livestock industry can be credited to his efforts. Many honors he has received, to be enumerated in this oral history, will develop this thesis. No finer statement can be made about a successful Extension Specialist.

James H. Mayer  
Chancellor



## PREFACE

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Reuben Albaugh since 1951, when I first joined the University of California. Rube was one of the major influences in educating me as to the value and activity of Agricultural Extension, from the time I was asked as a brand new instructor in Animal Science to discuss the role of by-product feeds and livestock nutrition in Monterey County, to involvement as Chairman of the Animal Husbandry Department with major livestock organizational activities.

Rube clearly understood the role of an Extension Specialist in bringing to bear the faculty talent of the University of California on solving problems of his area of specialty, that is livestock extension. As he saw problems that needed solving, he would ask faculty members to participate in defining the problem and suggesting solutions. This not only solved problems, but encouraged faculty members to develop research programs which were oriented to the needs of the State of California.

A second role which Rube understood and handled very well was to serve as critic of either practices in the livestock industry or of programs within departments in an intellectual sense from his perspective. He firmly believed that an obligation of the University of California and of those within it was to present facts, fundamental knowledge, and research programs in such a way that decisions were based upon a solid background. He did not believe he should make the decision for the industry or for those conducting programs, whether within or without the University, but his obligation was to make sure that these decisions were not made in ignorance.

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## INTRODUCTION

Rube Albaugh is an outstanding individual--a different kind of person--there's nobody I know that's quite like him. He is unique. He knew the cattle business from beginning to end. He was raised on a cattle ranch in northeastern Shasta County and graduated from the College of Agriculture in Oregon, with a major in animal husbandry. He then became assistant farm advisor in Monterey County, handling the livestock work in that great cow county. Later I appointed him as State Livestock Extension Specialist.

He accepted his position as a leader in the livestock industry without fanfare. It was natural for him to be involved in this industry, and respect came to him from people involved in livestock everywhere.

My first contact with the Albaugh family was in 1923. Professor B. H. Crocheron, then director of California Agricultural Extension Service, sent me to Shasta County as an itinerant assistant farm advisor. The Albaugh family members were leaders in the livestock industry in Shasta County at that time.

When Rube became a livestock specialist, he handled his educational work in a way that was unusually effective. Rube operated without fanfare or frock. He was clear--he was concise--he was innovative--he led the University of California Agricultural Extension program in the field of livestock improvement. He was effective in not only exercising leadership, influencing people in the field of education on the farms and ranches of the state and even the West, but he also had a great influence on the research work carried on by the Agricultural Experiment Station. With his eminent knowledge of livestock production, it was natural that the Experiment Station workers looked to Rube for consultation and guidance in the research work they conducted.

It is fortunate that those fifty years of service to this state and nation occurred when it did. This period was the heyday for research and Extension education in the United States. State legislators and U.S. congressmen were largely rural-oriented and realized the importance of improving food and fiber production.

During that period great strides were made in research and application of research findings to the farms of this country. This made possible the release of a vast army of farm workers whose daily chores were no longer necessary to supply the food and fiber that the nation required. This labor force then went into manufacturing products which improved the standard of living of the country.

Rube played an important part in bringing about this change. It was fortunate that Rube existed at this time because he had the ability and



opportunity of accomplishing much for the advancement of science in agriculture. Rube and his generation did so much for so many people.

In recent years society's emphasis has been on environment and social reform. The well-being and protection of the consumer have become all important. This leads, in turn, to increased attention to scientific agricultural production. The lessons learned during the "Rube Albaugh Era" are again coming to the fore to form the basis for man's well-being. active years but also upon his color and style, all of which was bound to produce an interesting memoir.

J. Earl Coke, Former Director of  
University of California Agricultural  
Extension Service

However, as for each memoir done, of funds must be found. At one point Garrison expressed his own feeling for "Rube" by promising to head a fund raising effort. Only a short time later the news of Carl Garrison's death saddened his many friends and associates.

Fortunately his efforts though aborted, produced a ground swell of support. Bert Crane, outstanding cattleman of Merced, took over the chore. He is currently vice-president of CBCLA, also former president of the Red Angus Association of America. Livestock farm advisers suggested names of individuals and organizations. Bert working with the indefatigable Lucy Garcia sent out a letter outlining the project. Sufficient donations were received to pay the major costs involved. Lucy Garcia, an honorary and friend, has been associated with Rube since 1959. She has been the first assistant secretary of the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association since 1967. Department Chairman, C. Eric Bradford, helped in many ways as well, as did Glenn Spurlock, Animal Extension Specialist, whose skill for writing and editing was well utilized.

An oral history memoir is developed by knowledgeable interviewers asking probing, informed questions, the answers to which bring out the substance of the memoir.

Three unusually well informed men agreed to interview Albaugh on the three distinct phases of his life. John Spurlock, fellow student with "Rube" of Oregon State College, his long-time friend and colleague, asked him about his family, growing up years and college experiences.

Julius Trescony, noted cattleman and farmer of San Lucas, California, a close friend, asked Rube questions about his twenty-two years of extension service in Monterey County. Trescony, who is eighty-six years old, sleeps in the very same room in which he was born. His support of extension activities is such that a chapter in the Albaugh memoir is titled the "Trescony Experiment Station."

And finally, Ken Ellis, Extension Animal Scientist, brought the memoir from 1949 when Albaugh moved to Davis as livestock specialist to the present



## HISTORY OF THE INTERVIEW

The Faculty Advisory Committee of the Oral History Center placed Reuben Albaugh high on the list of prospective memorists. This high priority was based not only upon his distinguished university service of fifty active years but also upon his color and style, all of which was bound to produce an interesting memoir.

However, as for each memoir done by the Oral History Center, a source of funds must be found. At one point, funding seemed imminent when Carl Garrison expressed his own feeling for "Rube" by promising to head a fund raising effort. Only a short time later the news of Carl Garrison's death saddened his many friends and associates.

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And finally, Ken Ellis, Extension Animal Scientist, brought the memoir from 1949 when Albaugh moved to Davis as livestock specialist to the present



time. Ellis was particularly well qualified in his role as interviewer because he himself had served as a County Farm Advisor as well as Specialist.

With the cooperation of so many friends and supporters the memoir has been completed. The title "Campus Cowboy," was a "natural." Chancellor Jim Meyer added his expressive prefatory comments. J. Earl Coke, former Director of Agricultural (now called Cooperative) Extension wrote an introduction to the memoir which provides an appropriate commentary. Lois Smith, who typed both the original transcript and the final mint copy, felt personally involved because her husband, Nathan, is an Assistant Professor in dairy cattle nutrition in the animal science department.

A. I. Dickman, Head  
Oral History Center

\* \* \* \*

It was certainly an honor for me to be selected to interview Rube Albaugh for his memoirs. I have known this distinguished Extension worker since 1923, and we have been close friends and team workers in the Extension Service for fifty years. I am also very well acquainted with the entire Albaugh family. Mildred and I have been invited to attend their family reunions on several occasions.

Before undertaking this interview, Rube and I reviewed an outline of questions. This outline was followed quite closely, but during the interview we would both think of other important events and these, of course, were included.

In all the years I have known Rube, his greatest quality is in an educator of the highest type. Albaugh is widely known and respected by cattlemen not only in California but throughout the U.S. His accomplishments and awards are many--he rose to the top and stayed there--a true champion in his profession.

John E. Spurlock  
Extension Assistant Director,  
Emeritus

\* \* \* \*

This assignment of interviewing my friend, counselor and hunting partner, Rube Albaugh, was extremely enjoyable. Prior to the interview an outline of questions to be asked was reviewed with Rube. We also reminisced for a couple of hours on experimental plots, organizing meetings, mutual friends, hunting trips, etc., that we did together while he was in Monterey County. We also discussed colloquial sayings or "western words" that Rube used.



During the interview, other subjects not included in the outline were discussed.

It is highly important to be well acquainted with the interviewee. It was also helpful to have a third party present (Mr. Dickman) who is not very familiar with the activities and events to be discussed. This third person can ask questions to make the history more communicable.

Julius Trescony  
Monterey County Cattleman

\* \* \* \*

In preparation for the interview, I studied the suggestions forwarded by Mr. Dickman and also reviewed notes that Rube and I made in relation to basic points that we wanted to include in the interview. In addition, I discussed with Rube the philosophy that I hoped to interject in some of the questions concerning his attitude, inner feelings and sense of accomplishments. I found Mr. Dickman's instructions very complete and helpful. It was also very helpful for me to explain to Rube in advance of the interview the real meaning of some of the questions I was going to pose.

I found the interview extremely interesting and stimulating. In spite of the many years that I have worked with Rube Albaugh, we were able to go in depth into some particular instances and situations that I only knew brief sketches of before this interview. It was stimulating from the fact that one cannot help but be impressed with the quality and quantity of written material this man has produced.

I also considered it an honor to conduct this interview because Rube has not only been a guiding force in Cooperative Extension in livestock work but he has also been a trainer, instructor, confidant and close friend to many livestock farm advisors in California.

Ken Ellis  
Extension Animal Scientist



In my long career in Extension I have made untold friends. This has been one of the greatest rewards of my career. It is impossible to give credit here to all of them. This list of donors emphasizes many of those outstanding friendships.

To them, I can only say, "Muchas gracias amigos. You are still trying to make me look good!"

Ralph and Elyse Ahl  
 Albert Albaugh Family  
 Allen Albaugh  
 Ed and Orma K. Albaugh  
 W. C. and Mary Albaugh  
 Douglas Allmond  
 Amador - El Dorado - Sacramento County  
 Cattlemen's Association  
 John Anderson  
 Gene and Neva Asher  
 B & B Cattle Company  
 Bank of America  
 James Barbree  
 Jim Bardin Ranch  
 Walter Basham  
 John Baumgartner, Jr.  
 Gary Beall  
 W. A. Beckman  
 Beef Development Taskforce  
 Chet Behen  
 Fremont Bell  
 Bruce Borrer  
 Mrs. Beverly O. Brace  
 Irvin and Gracy Bray  
 Roy Bray  
 William D. Brinan  
 California Beef Cattle Improvement  
 Association  
 California Cattlemen's Association  
 Camp and Mebane Cattle Company  
 Max Cardey  
 C. Roy Carmichael  
 Dale F. Carpenter  
 William H. Casey  
 Mrs. Munson W. Church  
 T. K. Clark  
 Velma C. Clark  
 Harold Cole  
 Charles and Blanche Collier

Richard D. Conway  
 Frank Corda Farm  
 Bert Crane Ranches  
 John and Mary Crowe  
 Perry T. Cupps  
 Mr. and Mrs. John Domingos, Jr.  
 John and Billie Dunbar  
 K. L. Eade and K. L. Eade, Jr.  
 Wes Eade  
 Mr. and Mrs. Glen Eidman  
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 Far West Auction Company  
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 Louis and Dorothy Francheschi  
 Lola Galli  
 D. T. Garlinger Company  
 Charles and Alma Gianolini  
 Will Gill and Sons  
 Frank E. Gillett  
 T. S. Glide, Jr.  
 R. D. Gover  
 Allen Griffin  
 F. C. Hamel  
 Lester and Irene Hamel  
 O. W. Hamel  
 R. W. Hamel  
 Hansen Farms  
 Hart Cattle Company  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Heitman, Jr.  
 William B. Hight  
 Cortlandt Hill  
 Mrs. Albert Hunt  
 James Indart  
 Warren C. Irvine



G. F. Timmons and Son  
 Jim Timmons  
 John V. Tiscornia  
 Julius G. Trescony  
 Albert Troost  
 Mrs. Dove E. Trotter  
 Tulare County Cattlemen's  
 Association  
 Gordon Van Vleck  
 Kenneth A. Wagon  
 D. J. Walters

John D. Weber  
 Wayne and Lauretta Weeks  
 Mrs. Lorna C. West  
 James E. Wickersham  
 H. M. Wilber  
 Albert Williams  
 Jack Wilson  
 Windswept Livestock Company  
 W. P. Wing  
 George A. Wiswall  
 Bert Woodall, Jr.

### The Old Homestead

Spurlock: When and where were you born?

Albaugh: I was born in Lassen County, August 7, 1901, about four miles east of Pittville, California on what was called the Shaw Ranch. My father and mother moved there in 1896 and rented that property. When I was a year old, mom and dad moved to the Baker Ranch, my mother's home ranch.

Spurlock: You say the Baker Ranch. Now, your mother was a Baker and you told me how her brother made a decision to go south. Just how did your dad and mother get a hold of that home ranch?

Albaugh: This piece of fertile dirt, later known as the Bar Double H Ranch, borders on the banks of the Pit River. This land area of 160 acres was surveyed in 1869 (30 acres were situated south across Pit River). This is how the ranch changed hands before dad and mother purchased it for \$2,700 in 1902.

Patent rights were issued to Steve Hollenbeck, December 30, 1879 for 160 acres; 4 acres deeded to J. E. Anglin, 1879.

July 2, 1879--Steve Hollenbeck deeded to Daniel Tarter for \$1,600.

September 1, 1880--Daniel Tarter deeded to William Fulton for \$2,100.

June 15, 1885--William Fulton deeded to Reuben Baker for \$2,000.

December 7, 1888 Reuben Baker mortgaged to Benjamin Oliver for \$2,500.

Oliver died in 1890

Place was sold at public auction on Court House steps in Redding to the highest bidder for \$4,650.35. Ellen Oliver, administratrix.



Albaugh: From 1897 through 1902 the place was rented to: Sylvester McGary, Bill Blake and Mrs. Raudy. In 1902 William J. and Minnie Albaugh purchased the place for \$2,700, after spending six years of ranching on what is known as the Shaw place, now owned by Tom and June Vestal.

Spurlock: How far was the Shaw place from the Baker Ranch and why did your folks decide to move?

Albaugh: There were six miles between the two properties. My mother wanted to return to the old home ranch and said to my father, "Billie, I want to go home." And he did so from George Oliver.

# I BOYHOOD DAYS

Spurlock: Rube, how far back can you remember?

Albaugh: The Old Homestead I was five years old. Pit River was over the dam and caused the largest flood in history. Charles Palmer, a neighbor, rode to our home on a grey horse and yelled, "The

Spurlock: When and where were you born?

Albaugh: I was born in Lassen County, August 7, 1901, about four miles east of Pittville, California on what was called the Shaw Ranch. My father and mother moved there in 1896 and rented that property. When I was a year old, mom and dad moved to the Baker Ranch, my mother's home ranch.

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Spurlock: Rube, how far back can you remember?

Albaugh: It was in 1906 when I was five years old. Pit River was over its banks and caused the largest flood in history. Charley Palmer, a neighbor, rode to our home on a grey horse and yelled, "The Pittville bridge has gone out."

Other neighbors were notified. The men got in boats, crossed the Pit River and landed the bridge near Beaver Creek. My mother, brother, sister, Millie, an Indian woman, my dog Carlo and I walked up on the knoll near the orchard and observed this rescue. Coming home, the men in the boats were singing, "Dip, boys, dip the oar."

#### Water Makes the Difference

Spurlock: Tell us about the litigation which had a bearing on the history of the Albaugh property.

Albaugh: Two rivers, the "Muddy Pit" and the snowy waters of "Fall River" wind their way through this unique, picturesque valley. Pit River heads at Goose Lake in Modoc County and empties into the Sacramento about 15 miles north of Redding. The flow of this river varies considerably, being at flood stage in some winters (10,000 cubic feet per second) and reverting to a slow, sluggish stream in the summer months (5 to 30 cubic feet per second). Fall River, on the other hand, is fed from cold, clear springs coming out of the lava rocks to the north of the valley, and the flow of this river varies little throughout the year with a carrying capacity of about 1200 cubic feet per second, joining Pit River at Fall River Mills.

In 1919 the Mt. Shasta Power Corporation bought most of the land along Pit River about seven miles south of Fall River

*Reuben Albaugh, age 16, on his way to high school, 1917, and his father on his famous horse "Ribbons"*





The Shaw Ranch in Lassen County, where I was born, 1901.



Reuben Albaugh, age 16—on my way to high school, 1917; and my father on his famous horse "Ribbons".



Albaugh: Mills and two miles up stream from Fall River Mills. They later purchased the McArthur Swamp. This gave them control of Fall River. They constructed a tunnel through Saddle Mountain and diverted the water from Fall River into the powerhouse known as Pit #1. This occurred on September 30, 1922. When Fall River was diverted from its main channel, the water in the Pit River pool from Pittville to Fall River Mills declined about four feet.

The ranchers along Pit River sued the Mt. Shasta Power Corporation for riparian rights to the water in Fall River. My father's ranch, the Bar Double H, was a test case in this litigation. The suit blasted through the courts for 15 years and the ranchers won a damage verdict of \$332,000. My father's share of this successful suit amounted to \$65,000, and he received the money in March 1936.

Spurlock: Why is it called the Bar Double H Ranch?

Albaugh: This is rather interesting, Sparky. Some people by the name of Killebrew were running cattle in the Fall River country and their brand was lll. The Killebrews were the socialites of Fall River Valley. They went to town often, their neckties waving in the wind. Consequently, they did not pay very much attention to their cattle business and never accounted for the number of cattle on hand.

A nearby cattleman, Bill Woodward, was quite an opportunist. When he rounded up his cattle, he'd find some of the Killebrew animals in his herd. Bill was able to simply change lll brand to a double H, so the story goes.

Bill and my dad had become good friends. In fact, Bill was going to marry my mother's sister Sarah who died prior to the wedding. In 1897 Bill sold out in order to go to the Alaskan gold fields (where he eventually made a fortune). He tried to talk my dad into going to Alaska with him, but my mother wouldn't let him go. Before leaving, Bill told my dad, "Why don't you buy my branding iron?" My father replied, "I have no money." Woodward said, "You have on a new pair of corduroy pants; if you give those to me, you may have my brand." So it was out of friendship and sentiment that this brand was acquired.

Spurlock: Tell us something about the development of the Bar Double H Ranch-- the kind of place it was when your folks got it and how it was developed into what it is today.

Albaugh: When my dad and mother went to the Baker Ranch in 1902, it was run down because it had been leased to several different parties as mentioned earlier. Dad diversified it. Somebody asked him how he made a success in ranching and he said, "I had something



Albaugh: to sell every day." He did--he had a small dairy, sheep, hogs and cattle. He sold wood, apples, etc., and that's the way he made it.

He continued doing this until November 26, 1916 when he bought the Hollenbeak place of 275 acres. At that time cattle were worth a lot of money. He bought cattle, fed them out and made \$100 a head on them. He was able to pay for this additional Hollenbeak land the first year.

In 1919, he bought the Vestal Swamp, which was 320 acres about three miles north of the home place. During the wintertime, this swamp was full of tules and sedges, but in the summer, it dried up and he was able to hay and pasture it.

In 1908 dad started running cattle in the Cascade Mountains on what we call the MacAfee Flat, Egg Lake, White Horse country (this is in southwest Modoc County). A group of cattlemen leased from Red River Lumber Company and also from the Forest Service about 20,000 acres of rangeland. By the '30s Dad was running between five and six hundred head of cattle on his own land plus grazing rights on the 20,000 acres of rangeland.

#### Uncle Carl - A Genius

Spurlock: What about your mother's family? The Bakers, who originally owned the home ranch?

Albaugh: My mother had three brothers and two sisters. One of her brothers, Reuben Carlton Baker, was not only a genius at inventing well-drilling tools and equipment, but he was also an astute businessman. When he was 21 years old, he decided to leave Fall River Valley; this was in 1893. He stuck a stick in the ground and said, "If this stick falls north, I'll go to the gold fields in Alaska. If it falls south, I'll go to the oil fields in Los Angeles." It fell south and he went down there and became an expert driller.

About two years later, in 1895, he moved up to Coalinga in Fresno County, where he drilled his second oil well. In 1915, he established the Baker Oil Tools, Inc., which is now called Baker International with headquarters in Los Angeles. This company maintains offices throughout the world and sells equipment and tools for drilling oil wells; it's a multi-million dollar company.

Spurlock: The fact that your uncle was highly successful with his tool equipment company really impressed you, didn't it?



Albaugh: Yes. Uncle Carl created the R. C. Baker Foundation which had a worth of about one million dollars. This money was earmarked for scholarships for graduate students majoring in petroleum and mechanical engineering. According to Roy Bainer, dean emeritus of the School of Engineering at UC Davis, during the past ten years, this school has received ten scholarships amounting to \$3,000 per year. Uncle Carl also left to each member of the Albaugh family stocks in Baker Oil Tools, Inc., and a substantial trust fund,

#### Mother Was A Baker

Spurlock: What about your mother?

Albaugh: My mother, Minnie Baker Albaugh, was born in California near Anderson, on November 8, 1877, and was raised in Fall River Valley. She was a very lovely person, quiet; she had very high morals and character. Was known all through the country as a very fine cook. Everybody liked her.

She used to say, "If you don't have something good to say about somebody, don't say anything." She had a great influence on my life because when I'd start to do something I knew was wrong, I would think, "I wonder if mother would approve such an activity?"

#### Dad, The Boss

Spurlock: Now, Rube, tell us about your dad. I know he was a real great man with a lot of ambition. Where did he come from?

Albaugh: My dad, William J. Albaugh, was born March 23, 1867, in Meadville, Pennsylvania. He was from a German family--all of them strong Catholic except his mother who was a Lutheran. My dad said that on Sunday they would all go to the Catholic church except his mother and they'd take her to the Lutheran church. All of her family (their names were Fox) belonged to the Lutheran church. The two families didn't get along too well.

My dad was about seventeen when he decided to leave home. He had heard of the West--the buffalo hunts, the Indian wars and the long trail drives. He was adventurous and wanted to see that country. He had no money, so he rode the trains and rods until he eventually reached Weiser, Idaho.

On the way, he had many interesting experiences. He landed in Dodge City--this was in the '80s when Dodge City was a tough



Albaugh: town. In a saloon one night soldiers and cowboys got into a fight. Dad said there were forty-seven shots fired and a friend of his was killed. Dad dove under a table and stayed there until after the shooting was over.

In Weiser, Idaho, he worked on a ranch and also took part in the wild horse runs.

Albaugh: He then went on to Portland, Oregon where he went into the woodcutting business for several years. Finally, he became a gold miner. He went down on the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers and stayed there with a bunch of tough miners. He told the story that along about three o'clock in the morning, he heard a scratching noise on the window which awoke him. A voice said, "Bill, I want you to take me across the river. The sheriff's after me." This was a miner on the dodge, and dad took him across the river. He returned, tied up the boat and in a few minutes the sheriff arrived and asked dad if he'd seen anyone; dad said he hadn't!

When dad arrived in Fall River Valley, he went by the Baker Ranch and my mother's brother Ed was greasing a wagon. Dad stopped and talked to him. Ed invited him to dinner, and there's where he met my mother. They were married November 29, 1896.

Spurlock: Rube, there were a few principles that were uppermost in your dad's mind on how to live and be successful.

Albaugh: Dad was the boss of the layout; he ruled with an iron hand. Yet the whole family highly respected him. He taught us to work hard and not to be complaining--if the wind blew too hard or if it was too cold, not to mention it. He tried to develop us as leaders, pace setters--to start things off. He taught us to want to make the world a better place in which to live. I think we all appreciate his teachings now.

Spurlock: What about some of the sayings he'd tell you.

Albaugh: He said, "If you have an appointment with someone and you find you can't be on time, be ten minutes early!"

Another statement, "You don't have to know much to get by, providing you know how to use what you do know."

Another one of my dad's favorite sayings, "If you want to find out if a man amounts to anything, put him 2,000 miles from home--broke!" My dad had experienced this himself.

I wrote a couple of poems about my father and mother that express my sentiments about their character and their accomplishments.



Spurlock: I think it would be excellent, Rube, if you would read those poems now.

Albaugh:

"From Penn State to California

To My Mother

When a gun was law and men were men  
And cattle roamed the earth.

Albaugh:

"A native daughter of California  
To the very last degree.  
You represent this golden state  
In all its entirety.

From early west traditions  
The pioneer regime  
You captured her hospitality  
And friendliness supreme.

The Albaugh ranch still stands as when  
The west was young and gay  
The doors are wide for all who chance  
To pass along that way.

From hearty folk of the early west  
You learned almost from birth  
To cook the food they like so well  
To love the rich, black earth.

From them you learned to entertain,  
Friend or foe the same  
Bring happiness to all you met  
No matter from whence they came.

From them you learned to make a dress  
To cook and bake as well  
To laugh and be good natured  
Generous and swell.


At Christmas time each year  
Your family gathers 'round  
To share the love you radiate  
When snow is on the ground.

Salt of the earth of this great land  
To us you'll always be  
A champion of fine womanhood  
Mother supreme to me."

The Albaugh

Spurlock: Rube, tell us about your brothers and sisters--quite a family.



Albaugh: I have three To Dad, The  Boss  
 and Albert. We have always been a close family due to mother's influence--she was always having family reunions.

Albaugh: "From Penn State to California  
 You saw the West at birth  
 When a gun was law and men were men  
 And cattle roamed the earth.  
 Young, energetic, yet restless  
 And filled with the urge to roam  
 Colorful tales of Indians  
 Won you from your home.  
 In the rugged town of Dodge City  
 You saw men drink and fight.  
 In smoky saloons and gamblin' halls  
 You saw men die by night.  
 You grubbed sagebrush on prairie lands  
 Drove cattle to the kill  
 Tried your luck in wild horse runs  
 Sweat in a lumber mill.  
 You panned with the miners on the creeks  
 Drank red hard likker too  
 You lingered in the jungle camps  
 And shared in their Mulligan stew.  
 With a song in your heart, a pack on your back  
 The setting sun in your eyes  
 You followed the trail of the Pony Express  
 Straight into the western skies.  
 In Fall River Valley, you made your home  
 And as the years rolled by  
 You fought and whipped the water sharks  
 Till the courts knew who had lied.  
 Recalling your long and useful life  
 There's only this much I can say,  
 'I'm proud of your part in making the West  
 just what it is today'."

The Albaughs--Six with the Same Brand

Spurlock: Rube, tell us about your brothers and sisters--quite a family.



Albaugh: I have three brothers and two sisters--Willis, Anna, Ed, Velma and Albert. We have always been a close family due to mother's influence--she was always having family reunions.

We always called my oldest brother, Willis, the anchorman because he kept the family together. After dad became inactive, when there were hard decisions to be made, Willis usually made them. He has the reputation of being able to withstand cold, heat and pain. As a young man, while roping a wild cow, his right thumb became entangled in the reata which pulled it off. He rode three miles on horseback, got in his car and drove four miles to the doctor. "Doc," he said, "trim it and sew it up. Do a good job 'cause I don't want to come back." He didn't go back. As you may know, the loss of a thumb or finger is the trademark of many famous cattlemen.

Willis is also a good mechanic, especially working with iron. He made branding irons for many ranches, including the Bar UC brand for the University of California. He is also a good horse-shoer and a devoted community worker.

My oldest sister Anna is called the pride of the family. She is always impeccably dressed, a perfect hostess and well liked by everyone. She, too, is instrumental in keeping our family close together.

My brother Ed left home after he finished his studies at Oregon State College, and went into ranching in Big Valley, California. He developed a herd of Polled Shorthorn cattle that's probably the most outstanding in the West as far as high production goes. I've often said that Ed is the Robert Bakewell of the twentieth century. (Bakewell was an Englishman who is known as the father of improved animal breeding.)

My youngest sister Velma went to Oregon State for a year and then was married. Later as a secretary she worked for the American Can Company in San Francisco. She always called herself the black sheep of the family, but she has more charisma and personality and get-up-and-go than the rest of us.

Albert is the baby of the family. He is on the home ranch today, probably one of the most successful cattlemen in California. He has cooperated with the University of California, working closely with his farm advisors. He developed one of the best herds of Herefords in that area. Like Willis, he is very active in community affairs.

All three of my brothers married daughters of pioneer cattlemen, namely, Mary Lee, Orma Kramer and Elizabeth Doty. Both of my sisters





Portrait of Mom and Dad and children, left to right: Willis, Anna, Rube, W. J., Mom, Ed, Velma, and Albert. 1946.



Albaugh: are married to prominent dentists who practice in San Francisco, namely, Harold Ritter and Charles Zappettini.

### The Three R's

Spurlock: Rube, what about your first schooling?

Albaugh: I went to grammar school in Pittville which was about a mile-and-a-quarter from home. We walked part of the time and sometimes rode horses, depending upon the weather. I had some excellent teachers, and I remember one very well; her name was Miss Ruby Cox. She taught the third grade and gave us a good start.

Another teacher that had much influence on me was Merton Callison, my eighth grade instructor. He later retired from teaching and went into the cattle business. I've seen him at many cattlemen's meetings.

I entered Fall River Joint Union High School. The first year or two we rode horses to school; then the district furnished school busses. That was about 1917. I didn't study much in high school; I didn't learn a great deal; wasn't interested in school. I wanted to be a cowboy.

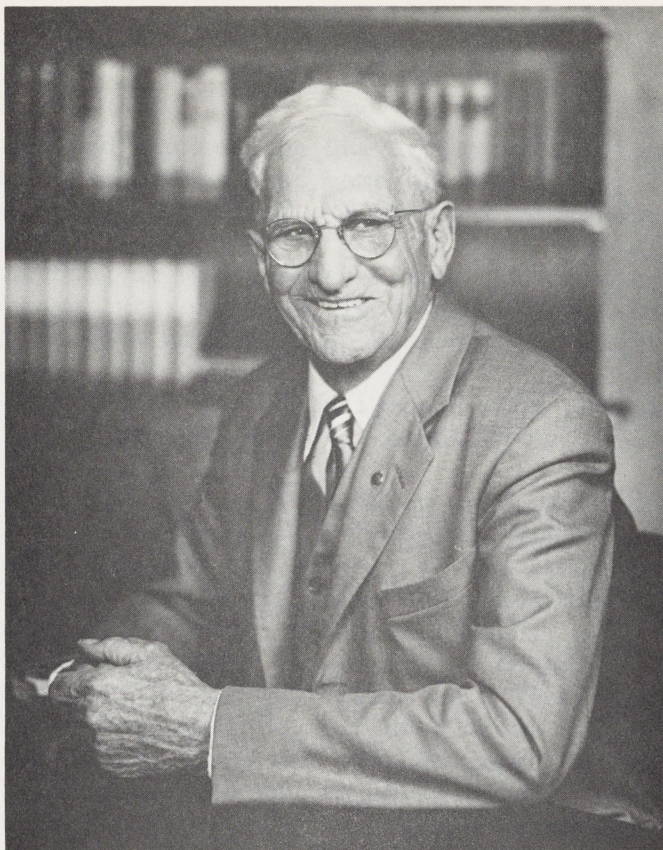
Spurlock: While you were in high school you were associated with 4-H and then later took vocational agriculture.

Albaugh: Yes. Parker Talbot was the first farm advisor in Shasta County. He was a great friend of the family; my father called him "Builder of Men." One night he came to the house and said he was going to start a 4-H club. He wanted to know if Willis and I would like to become members. I was then a junior in high school. We didn't care too much about it, but the next day my dad said, "I think you better join, Rube," which I did. I raised two pigs in a contest the first year. During my senior year in school I raised several acres of potatoes. Everybody in the valley was interested in the 4-H program.

Spurlock: Rube, you've often mentioned that Parker Talbot had a great influence on your life.

Albaugh: Yes he did. When I was nineteen and a senior in high school, he insisted that my father go on a Farm Bureau traveling conference which the Extension Service organized. Dad spent a week on this tour, and when he returned he said he had met one of the greatest leaders of men whose name was B. H. Crocheron, the Director of Agricultural Extension for the University.





My uncle, R. C. Baker, an inventive genius and an astute businessman. "From Rigs to Riches"



Parker Talbot, my first farm advisor, "Builder of Men."



Albaugh: Dad had visited the University of California at Berkeley on this trip and back at home he said to me, "I want you to go to college." I replied, "I don't think I want to go to college."

Anyhow, it was through Parker Talbot's influence that my dad became interested in higher education. That shows what an influence farm advisors can have on farm families.

Spurlock: Rube, tell us about the incident during your junior year in high school that caused you to be expelled.

Albaugh: One day a group of us boys had gone downtown for lunch and on our return we picked up an old rubber overshoe. We had the big round stoves that heated the school and the stove pipe went right up on top of the room. Ivan Dunlap who stood six foot, six inches was the only one who could reach that high. He put rubber from the overshoe on the three stoves in the school. The stench was so terrible that school was dismissed. The teachers tried to find out who was responsible, but none of us would tell. They suspected four of us who had gone downtown for lunch and expelled us. Ivan Dunlap who was actually responsible for putting the rubber on the stoves was never even suspected nor expelled!

My dad said, "If you can't do any better in school you had better stay home and work." So I stayed home and decided my schooling had ended.

In the meantime, an agricultural program was started in the school. Two young teachers from Montana, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rice were employed; Mr. Rice was the ag teacher and also the athletic coach; Mrs. Rice taught chemistry and English. The Rices became friendly with my father and mother. On one of their visits to our ranch they asked me if I was going to school, and I said I wasn't. Mr. Rice said to me, "I think you ought to come back and finish your senior year."

I wasn't planning to go but the morning that school started my dad said, "Who's going to school around here today?" Nobody said anything. He turned to me and said, "Rube, aren't you going?"

"No, I'm not going."

"Well, I'm going to the mountains for a few days to get some cattle and when I return I want you to be in school."

I talked to my mother and she also thought I should go. I didn't go that day; I helped Willis haul some grain over to Glenburn to grind into flour, instead. When we went through the



Albaugh: town of McArthur where the high school was located, all the kids were out (during lunchtime); they waved and seemed to be having a good time.

The next morning I told my mother I was going down to visit the school. They were having a student body meeting and elected me vice president--I hadn't even enrolled. Mr. Rice came around and said, "Well, Rube, I guess you're in, and I've got your program all outlined. You're going to have to make up some work and then graduate." I said, "All right."

Mr. and Mrs. Rice also had a great influence on me. I did make up all those back subjects and graduated. At graduation Mr. Rice had everything arranged for me to go to Oregon State and study agriculture.

I might say, Sparky, that the only time I studied hard in high school was during my senior year.

### Ranch Life

Spurlock: Now, Rube, undoubtedly through the years you learned a lot about ranching. You learned many skills. Tell us about some of those experiences.

Albaugh: We put up a lot of hay. We learned to run a mowing machine, rakes; we had derrick outfits; we used nets and a Jackson fork to unload our hay. We learned to drive horses and break horses and mules, too. We milked our cows. We did everything except drive a tractor--we didn't have one.

Spurlock: How many horses did you use on the ranch?

Albaugh: We had between 20 and 25 work horses and about six saddle horses, and also some mules. The work horses were of the Percheron, Shire, Cleveland Bay breeds; and saddle horses were Standardbred, Coach and Thoroughbreds. The work horses were used to pull mowing machines, plows, rakes, wagons and buggies.

Spurlock: How did you milk your dairy cattle? Did you have any problems with mastitis or TB?

Albaugh: We milked the cows by hand; we got up every morning at 4:30 to do this chore. We had problems with mastitis and TB--Shasta County was one of the first areas to clean up TB.



Spurlock: You produced quite a bit of hay on your ranch, Rube, tell us about the operations involved.

Albaugh: The original alfalfa seed we used came from South America and was called the Chilean variety. We produced seven to eight hundred tons of hay per year. When it was harvest time (started about the first of June and finished the middle of September), dad would hire five or six extra hands. These fellows would be Indians as well as migrant workers that would live in the bunkhouse during this season. Some of these workers came back each year. Mother would cook for all the family as well as these extra hands--my sisters and an Indian woman would help. We'd get up at 4:30 a.m., milk the cows, eat breakfast about 5:30, start haying at 6:30.

We used two or three mowing machines; two horses on each machine. With a good team of horses, we could mow ten acres per day per mower. About one and one-half days after the hay was cut, we raked it with a dump rake. It was left in the windrow for two days and then shocked by hand; took two to three days to shock.

We pitched the alfalfa hay by hand--one man on the wagon and two men pitching; two good men could pitch for three wagons. We pitched the hay as high as ten feet; one ton per wagon. I don't recall any loads being overturned. However, I do remember losing part of a load one time. We were crossing a ditch with a load of hay. Part of the hay where I was sitting slid off, and I fell on one of the horses. He kicked me and broke my left arm. I was laid up for about a week; then I continued loading and driving the hay wagon.

Spurlock: Where did you stack the hay?

Albaugh: The hay was unloaded into the barn with a Jackson fork which was equipped to a track with cables and pulleys. Horse power was used to lift the hay into the barn. The hay was spread in the barn by man power. Usually one man could take care of a three-wagon hay operation. We'd harvest about thirty wagon loads per day.

When the hay was stacked outside, it was unloaded with a derrick rig which was similar to those you see on ships--a pole and a boom. Nets were used to unload hay on the stack; half of the load was removed at a time. The grass hay was loaded on wagons by means of a slide and plunger. The hay was brought up to the slide with a buck rake pulled by two horses. Two horses on the plunger pushed hay onto the wagon.



- Albaugh: These stacks were very large--they were about 25 feet high and held between 100 and 120 tons of hay. It took an expert to stack this hay; my brother Willis was an expert at this operation.
- Spurlock: Did you bale any of it?
- Albaugh: No, everything was handled loosely.
- Spurlock: Any silage?
- Albaugh: No, not even trenches.
- Spurlock: How did you handle the manure?
- Albaugh: Cattle and horse manure was kept separate. During the spring, it was distributed on the land with a spreader--this was something like a wagonbed; it had a spool on back that did the spreading and a draper-type belt in the bottom of the bed that kept the manure moving toward the spool. The spreading of the manure was easy, but loading was difficult.
- Spurlock: How did you break the land to start planting?
- Albaugh: We used a sod plow, disc and a drag harrow, but no disc plow. It took about six horses to pull this plow when breaking up sod or alfalfa fields. It cut a 14-inch furrow and could plow about 3 acres per day. It was equipped with steel shears that could be sharpened. After a seed bed had been prepared by disking and harrowing, the alfalfa seed was broadcast with a hand seeder and the land was harrowed lightly.
- Spurlock: Did you produce any grain?
- Albaugh: Very little. When the alfalfa stands became sparse, we would plow them up and seed the land to barley and/or wheat for one year. It was then replanted to alfalfa.
- Spurlock: When you planted wheat, how did you prepare the land?
- Albaugh: The same as for alfalfa except we used a grain drill. It was a two-horse rig; had a box where you poured grain and it came down in tubes to the ground. We had to keep the box full of grain and set it to plant a certain amount of grain per acre: barley, 40 pounds per acre; wheat 50 pounds, alfalfa 15 pounds per acre. The alfalfa fields produced five to six tons per acre per year; grass hay on good land produced two and one-half to three tons per acre annually. Grass hay was clover timothy, redtop, and orchardgrass.



Spurlock: Did you have any floods?

Albaugh: I recall experiencing five or six large floods by Pit River. As mentioned earlier, at flood stage as much as 10,000 cubic feet of water per second was discharged by this river and it would cover about one-half of the ranch. After these floods there was always considerable debris left in the fields. We cleaned it up by loading the debris on wagons and sleds and then burning it. The silt brought down by these floods improved the fertility of the land and helped to control rodents such as gophers.

Spurlock: How were your toilet facilities?

Albaugh: They were good. The reason is we had an Artesian well which my Uncle Carl drilled in 1893 and it produced 20 pounds of pressure. The water was piped throughout the house. We had running water in our house before anyone in that country. We had an inside toilet in 1909. The water was heated by coils in the cook stove; we had a storage tank for bath water.

Spurlock: What did you use for heat?

Albaugh: We used wood. There was no electricity until about 1932 when Roosevelt became president and the New Deal made it possible for the remote areas to receive electricity. We also had kerosene and acetylene lamps.

Spurlock: Where did you get the wood and who cut it?

Albaugh: We had plenty of timber on the ranch, mostly yellow pine and some juniper. The Indians cut the wood.

Spurlock: Did you slaughter your own animals?

Albaugh: Once a year, about January, we would slaughter about fifteen hogs. We'd have a "butcher bee" and several of the neighbors would come to help. The hogs were slaughtered, the meat cured, smoked in a smokehouse; we made lard, head cheese and sausage. We kept meat in a roothouse which was insulated and kept cool in the summer and warm in winter.

In the summer we did slaughter our own lamb and ate it fresh. We did not kill our own beef; we purchased it from a meat peddler who serviced the whole area.

Spurlock: How many sheep and hogs did you run?

Albaugh: We ran about one hundred Hampshire ewes. Had about four brood



Albaugh: sows--total of thirty to forty head of the following breeds: Poland China, Duroc Jersey and Hampshire.

Spurlock: Did you learn to shear sheep?

Albaugh: Yes, but usually we'd hire someone to do the job.

Spurlock: What did you do with the wool?

Albaugh: Sell it to a buyer who came around.

Spurlock: Did you sell cattle? How?

Albaugh: We sold to two or three buyers who came through buying for certain packing plants in California. They would trail them using horses to Bartle or to Redding. Bartle was thirty miles and Redding eighty miles from our ranch; they would travel ten to twelve miles per day; feed cattle every night; went slowly; not much shrinkage.

Spurlock: What about other cattlemen who stopped by your ranch going north with their cattle?

Albaugh: As I mentioned, everything was trailed out, since there weren't any trucks or railroads at that time. Our ranch was the stopping place for cattle going to Bartle or Redding. My dad built the first stock scales in that country. Cattle would be assembled at the ranch. They would be weighed, fed and sorted for market. I saw as many as two thousand cattle at one time on the ranch. Of course, we sold hay to the cattlemen. They kept their horses in the barns and mother even cooked for some of the cowboys.

Spurlock: Now that you mentioned your mother cooking again, I recall you telling me about an Indian woman who helped her once in a while.

Albaugh: There were quite a few Indians in that country and we always employed some of them, especially in the winter for cutting wood. Indian women helped with the washing and cooking. This Indian lady whom you mention was named Clara and she was quite a character and an excellent cook. She worked for my mother for at least fifteen years and was considered one of the family. Our children and grandchildren loved her. She taught them Indian language. Clara was very religious and was always singing.

The Red Men have some very descriptive and significant sayings, Sparky. For example, "Never criticize anyone until you have walked twenty miles in his moccasins." But the expression that fits these memoirs the best is as follows:



Albaugh: An unknown number of years ago, an already aged Ogalala Sioux, the historian of his band, observed that "A people without history is like the wind upon the buffalo grass." The wind moves across the prairie, steadily, almost continually. As it does, the tall prairie grass of those moments records that movement, bending and swaying. But once the wind stops, the grass springs back into the position dictated by the sun. The wind is gone. The movement, the happening, is over. And with no record of its passing, the wind never was. Gone . . . utterly and completely.

Spurlock: Never sell an Indian short--they believe strongly in the Great Spirit. Now, Rube, tell us about breaking horses.

Albaugh: There are many ways to break a horse to ride or to drive. We halter-broke most of the horses as young colts. When getting a horse ready to break to ride, I'd tie it to a post in the corral. I would further restrain him by tying up one of his hind feet. In this position I would saddle and bridle him. Sometimes I would mount and dismount him with his foot still tied up.

The next step was to tie the bridle reins on each side of the saddle and turn him loose in the corral. In this way he would become bridewise. I would repeat these lessons for two or three days and by that time he was usually accustomed to the saddle and bridle.

The first time I'd ride this colt, my brother, mounted on another horse, would lead my colt until he got used to having me on his back. Sometimes he would try to buck and run. Usually after being led for a mile or so he was turned loose. The colt would continue to follow the lead horse, and I would guide him with the reins.

This took quite a bit of patience. There was an old Spanish saying, "Poco a poco andamos lejos," which means "little by little, we travel far." This is only a rough description of starting cow horses. It may take several years to develop a finished horse.

In training a horse to work in the harness, the first lesson was performed in the barn. A gentle horse was led alongside of the colt. The harness was carefully and slowly placed on the colt while leaning over the gentle horse. The colt was then tied to the gentle horse with a halter chain which was fastened in the ring of the harness of each horse. The horses were then taken out in the corral and driven until the colt became bridewise. They were hooked up to a wagon and driven. If the colt started to run, the gentle horse would hold him back.



- Albaugh: Usually this whole procedure could be done in one day. In training young horses it is very important not to work them too long at any one time. A tired horse may develop undesirable vices.
- Spurlock: Did you work every day?
- Albaugh: Never on Sunday except for the daily chores or emergencies. At a young age we went to Sunday school in Pittville.
- Spurlock: Rube, what chore did you dislike the most?
- Albaugh: Probably having to milk the cows after working all day in the hay field.
- Spurlock: Did you have much snow?
- Albaugh: At times there was a lot of snow during the winter. I've seen as much as three feet and temperature of 20° below zero . . . pretty cold!

#### Roundup Time in the Mountains

- Spurlock: Rube, you had a community fair--one of the first. You were there when it first started, years ago. Tell us about it.

#### Intermountain Fair and Roundup

- Albaugh: That fair was started by Parker Talbot in 1919. He kept telling my dad that we should have a fair, and my dad said, "All right. Let's put one on."

So they did and the first one had a few exhibits in the town hall; cowboys rode a few bucking horses. It eventually became a big event and is now known as the Intermountain Fair and Roundup.

- Spurlock: What were some of the incidents that took place at the fair?
- Albaugh: There was an Indian boy by the name of Willy Fulsome who was supposed to be quite a rider, and he bragged a lot about it. We had a tough bronc that we called the Roberts horse. We tricked Willy to get him on this horse. Willy got up on him, tipped his hat and said, "Boys and ladies, open the gate. I'm



Albaugh: here for stays." Well, he didn't ride very long but got bucked off which may have taught him not to brag so much.

Another time an Indian at the fair was going to ride a horse. He got his spurs and chaps on and the horse was saddled. Then he just walked away. An Indian woman got up in the grandstand and said, "He's scared just like coyote."

I became president of this fair and roundup in 1925; then my brother Willis followed me. He was president for fifty years which is quite a record!

### Zane Grey

Spurlock: Rube, what part did you take in this fair?

Albaugh: Beside working on the committees, I used to help with the bucking horses--getting them in the chutes--and I also had some race horses. I'll have to tell you about one of these horses and how we acquired him.

One year right after the 4th of July a Modoc Indian came by the ranch who was broke--too much celebration. He had a grey horse and a saddle; he told my dad he'd sell the whole outfit for \$35. Dad said, "Get on that horse, Rube, and see if he's any good."

I got on him, turned him around and said, "Yes, he's worth that money." So my dad bought him. I pulled the saddle off and he had two big saddle sores on his back. I put some axle grease on the sores and turned him out in the pasture.

When time came to go to the mountains for cattle, I said, "Dad, I'm going to take that grey horse." He replied, "I want you to go up there with a horse that you get those cattle in with. Don't fool around with something like that Indian horse." I took him anyhow and the fellows on the roundup would make fun of this Indian pony.

We went on a long ride one day to the Roberts Reservoir and it was hot. This horse seemed to stand it better than any others. We got back to camp about dark, and I had to open the field gate. I hit this grey horse with the rommel and he pranced clear up to the barn and I thought, "Well, this horse is well bred and I believe he can run." I named him Zane Grey after that great western author.



Albaugh:

Upon returning from the mountains with the cattle, I went in to our living room and a fellow by the name of Jim Day was sitting talking to my dad. He said, "Bill, I'd like to borrow a couple of your saddle horses to make up a relay team for the fair." Dad replied, "Oh, we don't have anything that can run." I said, "I think that grey horse can run." He said, "He can't run." Jim Day stated, "You come down on Sunday, Rube, and we'll see."

So I rode Zane Grey to the fairgrounds with my stock saddle which was equipped with long tapaderos. We tried him out against a brown mare that had been winning every race on that track for several years.

During this try-out, I did not urge Zane Grey to run and at the end of a half mile when I pulled him up, he did not even take a long breath. I knew then that I could beat the brown mare. Jim Day said, "Bring him down and I'll give you a third of what we win."

The day of the fair I went down and entered Zane Grey in the relay race. Unbeknownst to anyone else, I also entered him in the half mile race. When we were called in for the half mile race I came out on this grey horse and everybody was asking, "Where'd Rube get that horse?" To confuse them, Willis said, "Oh, he brought him from Oregon where he's been going to school."

There were six horses in the race and Jim Day's brother, Cecil, was riding the brown mare. We drew numbers and I drew the number one position. Cecil said to me, "Rube, what number did you get?"

"Number one."

"Give it to me."

"What do you want with it, Cecil?"

"I want to beat these Indian horses." (There were three Indian horses in the race.)

"All right, I'll trade with you." (I thought I was going to win anyhow.)

I won the race fairly easy and won all three races that year. We also won the relays and when I left for school, I had \$62 in my pocket, won by the horse that cost us \$35.

Zane Grey was what we call a triple threat horse because we could work cows on him, we could hunt on him and we raced him in



Albaugh: county fairs in Susanville, Bieber and Anderson. He was quite a horse. I remember when he was twenty-one years old, he still didn't have a pimple on his legs. He was probably half Thoroughbred; sired by a government remount stallion from up around Alturas; that's why he could run a little.

Spurlock: Tell us about "Snake Eyes" at the fair.

Albaugh: Bill Lee was the arena boss for the Intermountain Fair and Roundup. I was up on the ranch on vacation and Bill asked me to help put on the show. We rounded up horses from different ranches and gave them names such as "Hounds of Hell," "Yellow Fever," and "Pit River". We took one horse from the home ranch and called him "Snake Eyes". He had never been bucked but he was a kicker and I thought if a horse can kick he might buck.

In the finals that day, there were four fellows riding-- McKinley Machach, a native Paiute Indian, Bob Lockey, Jack Meyer, and a big, tall handsome cowpoke by the name of Marshall Flowers. They were all in the finals and Bill Lee said to me, "What horse do you think Marshall Flowers should ride?"

"Let's put him on Snake Eyes." So we ran Snake Eyes in the chute and he started kicking. Somebody grabbed his ear and eared him down. Marshall Flowers threw his old battle-scarred saddle up on the chute and said, "Screw her down tight." They saddled his horse while he put on his chaps and spurs. I pulled the flank rope up tight.

When ole Snake Eyes came out of the chute he changed ends and kicked up high behind. Three jumps like that and Flowers was bucked off. The crowd cheered and Marshall was quite upset. After the show we all went to the waterhole (saloon). Marshall walked in to get a shot in the heel and belligerently elbowed his way up to the bar. "Give me a whiskey," he said. And they poured him out straight whiskey. He was standing by my father and dad said, "Marshall, why don't you put a little water or something in that whiskey, sip it and enjoy it."

Marshall replied, "When I drink whiskey I want to feel the effects of it right now."

My dad laughed and said, "I guess you found that old bay horse of mine kinda hard to ride this afternoon, didn't you, Marshall?"

"Maybe you think I can't ride that horse."

"Yes, Marshall, I think you could ride him, if you hung on a little." Marshall put his whiskey down on the bar, turned



Albaugh: around and said, "I can ride any of them there horses in that corral, contest style or I can lick anybody in this bar!" Nobody accepted his challenge. Even today Marshall still thinks he shouldn't have been bucked off of Snake Eyes.

### Stalking the "Wiley Hart" with Horses and Dogs

Spurlock: Rube, tell us about some of your hunting experiences in Modoc County.

Albaugh: One of our recreations was to go to the mountains to ride for cattle in the fall of the year. We rounded up cattle and hunted at the same time. This was the big event during the year for us. I had two of the finest hunting horses (Coach horse and half Thoroughbred) and two hunting dogs (an Australian Shepherd and a crossbred Collie named Ring.) I could shoot off both of these horses and killed many deer shooting from their backs. The two dogs were tops. They were well trained. They followed commands to the nth degree. We would follow these dogs in deer country and they would soon jump a deer. If we wounded one, these dogs never let it get away. It was a real pleasure to hunt in that country during those years with those horses and dogs.

One time while home on vacation in 1928, I was hunting with my former teacher "Slicker" Rice and Kid McWilliams. (Slicker) got this nickname because he was an outstanding athlete--he played football, basketball, baseball and ran track at Montana State.) I was riding Zane Grey and Slicker was riding Paiute, that was another good hunting horse. Old Ring was with us (it's interesting to note that Ring lived for many years--I hunted with him as a youngster as well as an adult).

We were out in what we called the flatwoods country and the three of us separated. McWilliams was riding a mule and this hybrid wouldn't leave my horse, so he was following along behind me. All of a sudden a four-point buck jumped up and I heard Slicker shoot three or four times. I saw the deer and he stopped right by a tree. I jumped off and shot; the deer dropped. Mac said, "You got him." I replied, "Yes, I think so." We went over and tagged the deer; we gutted him and hung him up in a tree. Pretty soon Rice came riding up on his horse and said, "Where's my deer?"

"I don't know where your deer is," I replied.

"I think this is mine."



Albaugh:

"Well, maybe it is, but we can sure tell because I was shooting a thirty-thirty." Rice was shooting a twenty-five thirty-five. The deer was shot in the shoulders and neither one of these guns can shoot a bullet clear through.

We found the bullet and cut it out. It fitted Rice's gun so we took off my tag and put his on. I said, "There must be another deer around here someplace." We tied up our horses and I took my old dog Ring and said, "You fellows go on the outskirts and I'll go through the middle, and we'll see if we can find this deer." I hadn't gone very far when I saw that Ring wanted to go, and I said, "Go get him." He ran out about fifty yards and started baying. We ran over and there was another buck. Old Ring got him up. He had been shot in the belly. Mac shot his jaw off--and we nicknamed him dentist from then on. Anyhow, we got our deer and went home.

About a year later, again while on vacation, I was hunting on Taylor Mountain with a neighbor cattleman, John Lee. It was early in the morning and we were on horseback. I had old Ring along. We looked across the canyon and saw eight or ten people stationed on rocks under some trees apparently waiting for us to drive the deer through. They were about 400 yards from us. We sat there a moment or two and decided not to hunt in that area.

While we were sitting there, a buck jumped up and ran full length of this group of people. They shot about twenty shots at this deer, and I thought it was hit. I said to John, "Let's ride over there and see what's happening." We rode over and five guys were all standing under a tree. I said, "Did you get your buck?"

"No, I guess we missed him."

"No, I'm pretty sure you hit that deer."

"Well, we can't find him."

"I'll find him." So I said to old Ring, "Go hunt him up." He made a few circles around there and about a hundred yards down the mountain he was baying. I rode down there and here was an illegal forked horn buck, with a broken hind leg. Old Ring held him right in there. I yelled, "Come down here, here's your deer. I want you to kill him, skin him, and take the meat. And I'm going to stay right here until you do it. If you don't, I'm going to turn in the whole bunch of you." We sat there and when they had the deer about half butchered, we rode on into the flat country to continue our hunt. (Occasionally a hunter accidentally kills an illegal deer. It was the local custom to use this illegal deer as camp meat so it would not be wasted.)



Spurlock: You had an experience during one of your hunting trips of "sleep talking" Rube, do you want to tell us about it?

Albaugh: In 1932 we were hunting in the Taylor Mountain country. My old friend Julius Trescony was with us. It was cold October weather. One of our other companions, Arthur Cessna, had a habit of loud talking in his sleep which would wake us up. One night I left my old thirty-thirty rifle by my bed and when Arthur started talking in his sleep I just shot a couple of rounds through the ceiling of the cabin (laughter). It woke everybody up, and from there on there was no more sleep talking!

Over the years, Sparky, and up to the present, I have had many top hunting partners. Champions with rifle and scatter guns were my uncle Ed Baker, Julius Trescony and Ray Conway of Grass Valley. These expert shots were well acquainted with the habitat and behavior of the game they hunted. Conway is also a master with rod and reel. Ray has always been a most generous hunting companion, inviting me to hunt on his property many times over the years.

Spurlock: Rube, certainly in a country like that they had a few dances once in a while, didn't they?

Albaugh: Yes, we had a lot of them--usually every Saturday night. We either rode in a buggy or rode a horse, and we'd dance all night. We'd come home at daylight, put on our work clothes and go right to work. My dad would wake us up a half hour early to get us started and he'd always say, "Run around all night and you can't get up in the morning! Come on, let's get something done today."

### College Days

Spurlock: Now, Rube, after you graduated from high school you went up to Oregon State. Tell us how you happened to go there and something about the time you spent at OSU.

Albaugh: As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Rice made the arrangements for me to study animal science at Oregon. When I left for college, my dad gave me \$300, and said, "I want you to go up there and make good. I want you to especially learn to write so you can communicate with people."

Roderick McArthur, who became my brother-in-law a few weeks later, took me to the train station at Mt. Shasta City, eighty miles from home. Roderick was a brilliant man, a real leader. He talked to me about taking care of my health while I was at school and not to disappoint my family. He said, "They're expecting great things from you and that's what you want to do."



Albaugh: When we arrived at Mt. Shasta City (at that time it was called Sisson), he took me to the depot and then left. When the train came, I didn't even know how to get aboard. My mother had packed a lunch; we traveled all night and arrived in Albany, Oregon, which was about fifteen miles from Corvallis.

I was really green and didn't even know how to get to Corvallis. On the train I had met the Jenkins brothers, Leon and George, who were from Southern California, and they knew their way around.

I asked, "Are you going to Corvallis?"

"Yes."

"Do you mind if I go with you?"

"No, you stay with us and we'll see that you get there."

When we arrived at Corvallis and got off the train, I saw a cloud of smoke. I thought there was a big fire somewhere. I started running toward the smoke and I met somebody and asked, "Where's the fire?" He said, "That's no fire, that's just the train pulling out!" (Laughter.) That's how green I was!

I enrolled in school and majored in animal science. One of the instructors who had a great influence on me was E. L. "Dad" Potter. He was then the head of the animal science department. He said to me, "There are two courses I want you to take besides animal science and that's public speaking and journalism. You may want to write something someday or speak at meetings."

So I took a year of public speaking and one of journalism. Professor Snow was my instructor of journalism and after reading my articles, he'd say, "Albaugh, I know that you were born and raised in some small backwoods community because you can't spell anything (laughter)! But, your style is such that I'll have to accept it." So I developed a style that people apparently liked.

I must say that those two subjects, journalism and public speaking, have been exceedingly helpful to me during my Extension career.

Spurlock: Tell us about where you lived while at Corvallis.

Albaugh: The first year I lived in a boarding house and also part of my second year. During the second year I was invited to join the local fraternity called the Kai Tal Club. This organization had been started by four men who had transferred from Davis. The



Albaugh: fellow who invited me to the house for lunch was Dick Gray, a very brilliant student who later became a very successful man.

Spurlock: I was initiated that year along with Wray Lawrence and Howard Stearns. Howard had much influence on my life--he was probably one of the most brilliant men I ever met. He later became a doctor--an M.D. I think he still practices. He was an outstanding student, won many honors while at Corvallis.

Albaugh: After this club was on the campus a year, we transferred to a local fraternity called the Kappa Tau and then a year later to Alpha Gamma Rho, a national fraternity. The way it worked out, I was elected the first president. Dick Gray said to me, "Rube, you made it."

Spurlock: "What do you mean?" I replied.

Albaugh: "Well, you're the president."

Spurlock: "Yes."

Albaugh: "Do you know how you got to be president?"

Spurlock: "No."

Albaugh: "There wasn't any other talent!"

Spurlock: "You were around, Dick."

Albaugh: Anyhow, this fraternity influenced my life. The training one receives in a fraternity--association with people, learning to administer the affairs of a fraternity--are invaluable and no college career is complete without this experience. And it was great for me because I was really green--right out of the sagebrush--when I got there. In addition, the friendships you develop over the years through these fraternity connections is something that dollars and cents cannot buy!

Spurlock: As I recall, Sparky, you were secretary when I was president. Isn't that right?

Albaugh: Sure do.

Spurlock: Yes. And aren't some of your relatives also members of Alpha Gamma Rho?

Albaugh: Yes--my two brothers, Ed and Albert, and two of my nephews, Allen and Steve Albaugh, are members and I'm very proud of them. participated in intramural sports. At one time we won the Intramural Table which was the prize for all-around sports. We had a winning track team, as you'll remember. Additional honors such as



Albaugh: being admitted to Alpha Zeta and other honorary fraternities helped to put the fraternity on the map at Corvallis.

Spurlock: Rube, at the Alpha Gamma Rho house, there were certain rules and regulations we had to follow. Tell us about them.

Albaugh: There were social functions that we had to attend, such as house dances. We all took our turns at keeping the house clean and waiting on the table. One year I was in charge of seeing that the house duties were done, such as sweeping and taking care of the yard. I had some trouble with one fellow named Milo, as you'll remember.

Spurlock: As I recall, we had no liquor in the house at all, nor was it allowed on campus. And I believe Milo broke this rule.

Albaugh: No liquor on campus and you couldn't even smoke on the campus. Milo didn't do his house duty once, and I went to his room to ask him why he hadn't. He got quite belligerent and took a swing at me. (Apparently he had been drinking.) In just two punches I had him on the floor and from then on I had no difficulty getting people to do their housework. (He didn't know I was on the boxing team.)

Spurlock: This was quite a scholastic group, Rube.

Albaugh: Yes, this fraternity excelled in scholastics. We were right up at the top most of the time. We had a study table and helped each other a great deal. I remember having to make up some algebra and geometry classes. I was then rooming with a fraternity brother, Franklin Brown, who had studied engineering at Stanford. He coached me on how to pass the examinations in both of my math courses, and I got by with flying colors. I recall our faculty advisor E. L. Potter would tell us, "When you boys get out in the country, always remember you're an Alpha Gamma Rho." We were supposed to perform better than the others, and I have tried to live up to that motto.

Albaugh: Sparky, remember you used to smoke cigarettes when in college?

Spurlock: Sure do.

Albaugh: Do you remember once while we were walking downtown and I said, "Sparky, you didn't make very good grades this past quarter." You agreed. I went on to tell you, "If you'll throw away those damn cigarettes, maybe you can bring up those grades." You later told me you threw away that pack of cigarettes and didn't smoke for two weeks. At least I influenced your life for that length of time!



Spurlock: Yes, longer than that, Rube! What were some of the activities you took part in at Oregon State?

Albaugh: I was manager of the agricultural fair which was quite a big event. It's rather interesting how I got that job. As a junior we were all working in the armory, putting up exhibits for the fair and a fellow came in driving four horses. He couldn't drive them very well. R. G. Johnson who was manager of the fair turned to me and said, "Rube, can you drive those horses?"

"Yes."

"Get up there and take them."

So I got up and drove those horses. After the fair he came to our house and said, "You're going to be manager of the fair next year." And that's how I got it--because I could drive those horses.

Spurlock: You were also in the cavalry unit, Rube.

Albaugh: Yes I was in the cavalry unit for two years. Each year they held a contest called the Gymkanna. I took part in it both years and won two events. They allowed me to pick the horse for this contest. It is interesting to note that Beryl Strong was also a contestant in that event. I did not know her at that time; she is now the wife of Horace Strong, my colleague.

There was a big fellow in the cavalry by the name of Dickerson from eastern Oregon who was quite a cowboy. We were competing in a potato race, where you had to reach down from your horse and pick up a potato and put it in a barrel. Dick came over to me and said, "Rube, if you can just place in this event, we'll win it." The first time Dickerson leaned over to pick up his potato, he fell off and I won the event along with a pair of spurs which I cherish very much.

Spurlock: What about the boxing team?

Albaugh: I boxed all four years on the boxing team. The first two years I entered the heavyweight division. This was an intramural sport; I got into the finals but lost. The next two years, I trained down and got into the middleweight class and won both years. In my last fight I was competing against a fellow from the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity who was a halfback on the football team.

On my last fight Vic Johnson, my fraternity brother and a great optimist, was in my corner as a second. He gave me encouragement and direction, saying "Rube, knock him out the next





Reuben Albaugh, age 20. Winner of the Gymkanna race at Oregon State (contest between calvary and artillery units, 1921).



Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rice, my high school teachers.



Albaugh: round." I finally won and became the school middleweight champion. That win helped our fraternity to become more prominent on the campus.

I was also lucky enough to make Alpha Zeta which was an honorary agricultural fraternity and this was a great honor. This, too, brought recognition to the house.

Spurlock: And the judging teams?

Albaugh: I made the livestock judging team and we went to Portland. I think we came out third. Professor Potter was our coach. The team from Davis won first that year. They stayed at our house and that's where I met John Baumgartner. (Later we became close friends; John is a very important and influential cattleman in California.)

Spurlock: Remember the trip we took to Canada?

Albaugh: Yes, this was a very interesting trip. It was during spring vacation and my cousin, Carlton Baker, was in school at the time. His father had given him \$50 and told him, "Carlton, take Rube on a trip somewhere." Six of us decided we'd go to Canada. One of the fellows, Ed Atmore, was from Southern California. He was quite wealthy and had a Dodge car. Carlton had a Buick.

We finally got to Vancouver, British Columbia. We had an Oregon State College sticker on our car. Some of the Canadian students saw it and they invited us to come out to a dance that night at the University of British Columbia.

I met a girl there; while dancing with her, she asked, "Do you have a smoke?" "No," I replied, "I don't smoke." She didn't think much of me from then on because I didn't smoke.

After the dance, the six of us bought some beer, went through Stanley Park, which was a very nice place, and finally we spent all of our money so we started back home. We drove without stopping. We got into Corvallis about a day and a half later. We were all broke but had a good time.

Spurlock: Rube, in 1975 we all went back to Corvallis and enjoyed the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR). Tell us about your part in that ceremony.

Albaugh: This event was ramrodded by Floyd Mullen (nicknamed "Moon"). I had the pleasure of introducing and presenting to each one of the charter members a plaque in memory of this event. This gave me a great deal of pleasure.



Albaugh: John, you had a big part in that program yourself. You were master of ceremonies the night preceding the main banquet and introduced all of the Alpha Beta members of AGR. When I introduced you, I said, "Sparky didn't make Alpha Zeta, but he piled up a million."

Spurlock: Rube, tell us something about your graduation and what you did afterwards?

Albaugh: My father, mother, my sister Anna and her husband Roderick came up for my graduation. That was a very great honor to me. The Sunday before graduation we had open house for the mothers and I remember asking Lee Drew if he would go down to the Benton Hotel and bring my mother and sister up to the house for dinner. This he did, and my sister still talks about what a nice gentleman Lee was and how well he treated them.

The next day at noon, we invited Roderick and my father up to the fraternity for lunch. I remember Roderick remarking about what a great bunch of fellows my fraternity brothers were. He said, "If I were to pick out the smartest man here, it would be that red-headed fellow." That red-headed fellow was Howard Stearns who became a famous obstetrician--so he knew people, as you can see.

#### On My Own

Albaugh: After graduation I worked on the ranch during the summer and fall. My dad said we were going to enter a partnership, so he sold me a third of the cattle and Willis a third. We ran them for a year, and at the end of that time I decided that I wanted to get out on my own. I had an urge to do other things.

I sold my cattle to my dad and my brother and made a profit of \$800. My intentions were to go to Arizona. I had a Ford Model T coupe that I bought for \$100. I had no driver's license. It was the first day of February 1927, when I left. I really hated to leave home, but my mother knew that I had to; dad didn't want me to leave; he didn't even say goodbye.

I drove into Redding about noon and got a driver's license. I then drove to Napa and stayed all night with Dick Gray, one of my fraternity brothers. He was then teaching high school. Dick told me, "If you want to get into teaching, you should go down to Berkeley." He gave me a man's name to contact if I decided to do that. But, before I left home, I remember Willis telling me,



Albaugh: "Rube, why don't you put in an application to be a farm advisor? I think you'd be good at it."

I went to San Francisco to the California Cattlemen's Association office. Slicker Rice was the assistant secretary and Roy Hagen, the secretary. Roy was a former 4-H leader from the Extension Service and he knew me and my family very well. He asked me what I was doing and I told him I was looking for a job. He said, "If you'll come back about two o'clock this afternoon, maybe I'll have a job for you."

I returned at two o'clock and Roy had set up an appointment for me to see I. W. Hellman who was with the Wells Fargo Union Trust Company in San Francisco.

I went to see Mr. Hellman and he wanted to hire an efficiency expert to conduct cost studies and determine where the leaks were on his ranch at San Miguel (the Nacimiento Ranch). This was a big ranch of 36,000 acres and they ran about 3,000 cattle and 1,000 head of hogs; farmed 12,000 acres of wheat--all with horses and mules.

He offered me \$100 a month plus room and board. I took the job. I set up a cost accounting study and developed cost records. I also rode on the range. One day my horse fell, hurting me quite badly. I was on crutches for a couple of weeks. While I was on crutches, my Uncle Carl came to see me. He said, "This might be all right here, but I think you'd better get some other kind of work." He did not ask me to work for him which some of my cousins did.

While at the Nacimiento Ranch, a very funny thing happened. There were three Lynch brothers who lived near the Nacimiento. They were all red-headed, tough and good cowboys. They came in to help on the roundup. Al Kaufman and Benny Lom who were football players on the University of California team at Berkeley were great friends of Mr. Hellman. They were on the ranch getting conditioned for the next season. Benny was quite outspoken and he tried to be in the limelight, but he failed to understand these western cowboys.

One night as he went in to go to bed, he threw a cup of cold water on Walter and Harold Lynch. Benny couldn't have picked on two tougher guys. They jumped out of their bed and took after him. He ran down through the gravel. Harold tackled him from behind and Walter came up and put a hammer lock on him. He yelled, "That hurts." They cinched it up a little tighter and they brought him up to this big watering trough about twenty feet long and four feet wide and plenty deep. They dunked him which dampened the



Albaugh: spirit of Benny Lom for quite a while! As you may remember, a few months later, in the Rose Bowl, California was playing Ohio and Roy Riggles a UC player was running the wrong way on the field; Benny Lom tackled him three yards from the goal line and saved the day!

I learned a lot on this ranch. Before starting to work for Mr. Hellman, I had also put in an application for a farm advisor's job. I had gone to the Berkeley office and met Tom Mayhew, the Assistant Director. I don't think he was very impressed with me, but I had used Parker Talbot's name on my references which is one of the main reasons I finally got into Extension.

I had been working on the Nacimiento Ranch about six months when I received a telegram from Tom Mayhew, saying he wanted to meet me in Paso Robles. When we met he said there was a farm advisor job open in Monterey County and he wanted me to take it. I replied, "I'll have to talk to my boss, Mr. Hellman." And when I did, Mr. Hellman said, "Why don't you take that job? In a few years you'll be older and I'll put you in charge of my ranch." So I took the job.

#### A Two-way Hitch

Spurlock: And that's how you got into Extension? Now, Rube, when did you get married?

Albaugh: Vira and I were married September 23, 1927. I had met her at a dance in Fall River Mills in 1925. I was president of the fair that year, and we were putting on a dance to raise money for the fair. This was before we had race horse money to help with fair expenses. Vira was teaching school in Susanville. I had taken some horses to race at the fair in Susanville. (I knew her family before that.) In 1926, the following year, Vira got a job teaching school in Turlock. I had gone to see her several times while she was in Turlock. We were married in Reno, Nevada, as I mentioned, in 1927.

Vira graduated from Chico State University, specializing in English and she is an excellent speller. Because of this training she was a great help to me in my writing endeavors all through the years. She did a lot of editing, and I dictated many stories to her that she took in longhand. She would try and teach me to spell and improve my grammar, but I never could learn it.





Newlyweds. September 23, 1927.



### Indian Battles

Albaugh: Sparky, I'd like to remind you about a funny incident that happened when my son was head basketball coach at Sonoma Junior College. You told him, "Glen, if you ever need a good basketball play to win a game, let me know. After all, I was All-Valley center in Round Valley. Of course, there were only five of us on the team." A few months later Glen met you and said, "I got a tough game coming up next week and need a good play." You replied, "Who's on your team?"

"Well, I have an Indian from Covelo--he's one of my best forwards." And you said, "All you have to do, Glen, is give the ball to the Injun!" We still talk about this at our family reunions, Sparky.

Spurlock: Speaking of Indians, Rube, were there ever any serious conflicts between the Indians and the whites in Fall River Valley?

Albaugh: Yes. There was one incident that I remember well.

Mike Harum, also known as "Big Mike" throughout Northern California, was a Paiute Indian, standing over 6 feet high and weighing about 230 pounds. His home was in Dixie Valley, a beautiful alpine mountain landscape, situated about 20 miles southeast of Pittville, Lassen County, California. During Mike's heyday the Valley was owned by Cox and Clark and was operated as a cattle ranch, running about 3,000 head. "Big Mike" was married and had three sons, namely, Wilson, Bennet and Kinley, and one daughter.

Late in November 1911, "Big Mike" took his family in a spring wagon on a visit to Fall River Valley. On the evening of November 22, his three sons were playing obscene games with other Indian children near the Bieber store in McArthur, when along came Roderick McArthur, prominent cattleman and president of the John McArthur Company. When he ordered the kids to discontinue their activities, the oldest son Wilson (a deaf mute) pulled a knife on McArthur. Roderick immediately took the knife from the boy and ordered the Indians to leave. At this time Mike appeared on the scene and challenged Roderick to a fist fight; McArthur accepted the invitation, but the big Indian retreated saying, "I'll get you for this."

The cattleman returned to the store, and in a few minutes a shot was fired in his direction, the bullet landing inches from his leg. Although it was nearly dusk when the shot was fired, everyone suspected it was Mike who did the shooting.



Albaugh:

McArthur immediately swore out a warrant for Mike's arrest on a felony charge, and requested Constable Ed Lansing to arrest the renegade Indian. Mike had a belligerent, overbearing reputation, especially when he was drinking the "pale face" fire water. (He had killed an Indian doctor in Dixie Valley the year before this episode. Although he stood trial in Susanville for that murder, he was acquitted, but later it was said he confessed to the crime.)

After the shooting at the Bieber store, Mike and his family drove south across the muddy Pit River and camped near Peacock Creek. The next morning Constable Lansing, accompanied by his deputy William "Billy" Blake, drove within a few hundred yards of the Indian's camp. Here they waited until Mike and his family negotiated a curve in the road near Peacock Creek enroute to their home in Dixie Valley.

Lansing stepped in front of the team and ordered Mike to surrender. The Indians thinking it was a holdup immediately fired on the lawmen. After some 20 shots had punctured that crisp mountain air and the smoke and din had vanished, Blake was shot through the thigh, and Lansing received a bullet crease on his knee. The Constable, manning a shotgun, shot Wilson through the nose, and also wounded him in the hand. At this point, the team ran away, upset the wagon, and Harum and his oldest son Wilson ran zig-zagging across the field out of gun reach.

Since Blake's leg was bleeding badly, Lansing loaded him in the buggy and drove frantically to Fall River Mills, where his deputy was attended by Dr. M. D. Pratt, local physician. A call was sent to the capable and outstanding Dr. Legee, McCloud River Company's doctor. He responded immediately and upon arriving in Fall River Mills, assisted Dr. Pratt in amputating Blake's leg. Because of loss of blood and shock, he died early the next day, stating on his death bed that Mike had shot him.

Harry St. John and Harry Pitzer, who lived near the scene of the conflict, heard the shooting and hurried to the battlegrounds. They located the runaway team, righted the wagon and assisted Mrs. Harum in getting her family together and headed for home. These two witnesses later testified that Mike had fired five shots and his son five, and Lansing and Blake had also fired the same number. This was documented by recovering the empty shells. Other star witnesses for the prosecution were Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lansing, Howard Wendt, Luther McArthur, Dr. M. D. Pratt and Roderick McArthur.

After the shooting Mike and his deaf son Wilson struck off south afoot across the rough, tough lava beds. They lived off the land Indian style.



Albaugh: Several posses were organized and for several days they combed Lassen County in search of the two Redskins to no avail. Mike later said that on a couple of instances he could have killed several of the members of the posse--they were that close to him.

On January 5, 1912, Sheriff Hunsinger captured Mike as he came into Lovelock, Nevada, to sell a bridle he had made, so he could buy some food. (Lovelock is about 250 miles southeast of McArthur.) When apprehended, he was not armed and did not resist arrest. When captured, Mike and his son were gaunt, and hungry; their clothes torn and threadbare; their feet were wrapped in barley sacks--indicating the hardships these Paiutes endured. Mike stated that they were without food and water for five days during their law-eluding period.

On January 18, 1912, Sheriff John L. Montgomery took Mike and his son to Redding to stand trial for murdering Billy Blake!

Mike's trial began on May 20, 1912--it blasted through the courts for six weeks. Orr M. Chenoweth, a young Shasta County District Attorney prosecuted the case. Astute, brilliant, criminal attorney Charles H. Braynard defended Mike. He was assisted by Thomas H. Selvidge, assistant U.S. Attorney; (his involvement in the case was because Indians were considered wards of the government).

Mrs. Harum and her three sons were witnesses for the trial. It was said that she gave a very cool, concise and convincing testimony. The defense used a surprise witness--the deaf and dumb son, Wilson, questioning him in sign language. This was confusing to Chenoweth, so he did not cross-examine Wilson.

On June 29, at twelve noon, Mike and his son were acquitted. The jury in this case reasoned that when Lansing ordered the Indians to surrender, the deaf boy (not able to understand the command) thought it was a holdup and shot in self-defense. Then, too, the jury may have concluded that the evidence presented indicated that Mike's shot at McArthur was of circumstantial nature. It has been said that of all the lawsuits in which Roderick McArthur was involved, this is the only one where he came up a loser. The Red Men won this battle!

Some people with an elastic imagination maintain that "Big Mike's" ghost still roams the north country that is drained by the mighty Pit; that he helps the poor and the deserving and punishes the wicked and greedy.

For many years a colored-up version of the Big Mike-Lansing battle has been a favorite story that I have told my children,



Albaugh: grandchildren, nephews and nieces. Even today at family reunions somebody is apt to say, "Dad, let's hear the 'Big Mike' story." (Some contrast to the Little Red Riding Hood yarns.)

Names, dates and other data regarding this gun battle between the whites and the Indians were secured from the Redding Currier Free Press, with the competent help of John Sekerak, UC Davis Librarian.

Sparky, we have been very close friends for many years. Our philosophy regarding Extension work has been synonymous. Your generosity to the weak, the wronged, the impoverished, and the ill has always greatly impressed me. Your Will Rogers humor has enlightened life's load for many people - laughter is the best medicine!

Trescony: I am interested in trying to find out is do you remember exactly, more or less, when you first came to Salinas?

Albaugh: Yes. I arrived in Salinas, Cal., on the 31st day of May, 1927. I stopped at the old Jeffery Hotel. I had been working, as you remember, on the Macielento Ranch in San Miguel. (Macielento is a Spanish word meaning birth.)

Trescony: That's right.

Albaugh: I stayed all night at the Jeffery Hotel. The next morning I went to the farm advisor's office which was right next door. I'm sure you remember where that office was?

Trescony: I remember.

Albaugh: And I met A. A. Tavernetti, who was the farm advisor, and Leland Laniel who was my first secretary and is now Mrs. Frank Crocker. A. A. Tavernetti was a brilliant man, very generous. He was a man who was unpredictable and because of that trait he was quite difficult to work with. He was very knowledgeable in his field of vegetable crops and was considered an expert around the state.

The first week that I was on this job, Professor E. H. Crocheron, who was then director of Extension, came to Salinas and visited our office. I was in the back office writing. He came in and said, "Albaugh, what are you doing?" I replied, "I'm writing a story." He said, "That's good. What are you writing about?" I said, "Well, I was out visiting a 4-H club not long ago and one of the girls had broken her pig so bad. She had a hammer on it and I was writing this up as a feature story." He said, "Well, that's great. That's the way to do it." He continued, "This afternoon, you and I are going to take a ride." And I said, "Where are we going?" He said, "Long City.



Albaugh: I'd like to have you go around the state with me visiting the county offices but they can't spare you here in this county.

We went to King City and met Arnold Frew of the California Orchard Company. B. H. said when we left, "Get acquainted with that man because he's an outstanding individual." He could not have been more right, as you know, Arnold Frew was one of our leading citizens, Julius, for many years.

## II MONTEREY COUNTY FARM ADVISOR, AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION

Trescony: Rube, I'll have to test your memory out a little bit. What we're interested in trying to find out is do you remember exactly, more or less, when you first came to Salinas?

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Albaugh: I'd like to have you go around the state with me visiting the county offices but they can't spare you here in this county."

We went to King City and met Arnold Frew of the California Orchard Company. B. H. said when we left, "Get acquainted with that man because he's an outstanding individual." He could pick good men because, as you know, Arnold Frew was one of our leading citizens, Julius, for many years.

On our way down to King City, Crocheron told me about Extension. He reminded me that it was the off-campus educational arm of the University of California and that our main job was to develop and disseminate information that would change practices in agriculture and improve the quality of life on the land. I learned more from him about Extension in that short time than I did for many years. He also pointed out the importance of being punctual, loyal, and trying to do a good job. He wanted his people to do an excellent job. That was his program. Many of his sayings were so very significant. He believed in hard work, hard work well planned. And he often said, "That a task without vision is drudgery. Vision without a task is a dream. But a vision and a task together are joys unspeakable." Another thing he said, "If you want to improve yourself, there are three ways to do it. One is to attend some great university." He mentioned Cornell, Penn State, Iowa State, California. "Secondly," he said, "surround yourself with people who know more than you do. The third, and probably the most important is to travel. But," he said, "I don't pay you people enough for you to travel very extensively but you should do it anyhow."

Trescony: I've almost forgotten but I think you'll remember the other people who were in your office at that time. Maybe you can tell us who they were.

#### The County Staff

Albaugh: Yes, Julius, as I mentioned, A. A. Tavernetti, was farm advisor. I was assistant farm advisor and Maybelle Eager was the home advisor. She was a very nice person and an excellent Extension worker. They called them home demonstration agents at that time.

In those early days before a farm advisor was located in each county, Extension worked through the Farm Bureau organization. This was necessary because Crocheron was of the opinion that the farm and home advisors had to have an organization to work through.



Albaugh: Farm Bureau at that time had sixteen farm centers in Monterey County as I remember. We were expected to attend all of those farm centers which usually met at night once a month. We were expected to always have a speech or something special to say, bring up some worthwhile program at those center meetings. I recall the first two or three years I was here that Mr. Tavernetti and I attended 147 meetings a year.

Maybelle Eager, the home demonstration agent, carried on home department meetings. This too was in connection with the Farm Bureau which usually met in the afternoons. She taught sewing, cooking, home decorating, landscaping and many other subjects that were important to farm wives in those days. I remember that she also had demonstrations on cleaning clothes--dry cleaning--and so forth. She stayed here only six years and then was promoted as a specialist. She was replaced by Anne Olson.

#### First Assignments

Trescony: At that time, with what particular assignment were you to be concerned? Was it to be with the cattle or sheep or hogs or dairy or all these different interests? What would you say about that?

Albaugh: When I first arrived, I had three different assignments, Julius. One was to carry out a cost study on poultry production in the Prunedale area. As you remember, they used to have a lot of poultry there. As I recall we had about twenty-five poultry ranches--I visited them once a month and picked up all their records so we could run a cost study on the poultry business. That was an interesting assignment.

I was also in charge of the 4-H program and we had, I think, sixteen clubs with over three hundred 4-H'ers. O. L. Eckman, who was with the Superintendent of Schools, also helped us.

#### Dairy Program

Albaugh: In addition to that I carried on the very important dairy program. B. H. Crocheron said to me the first day he met me, "I want you to organize a cow testing organization here and get these dairymen in this program. If you do that you've touched a soft spot in my heart." I went to work on the dairy program, organized an association. L. W. Wing was the first president. Most of these people

Albaugh: The 4-H program was a good one in this county with some exceptions



Albaugh: were Swiss-Italians. Many of them couldn't speak much English and were suspicious of people but I would visit them, go to their dairy, take them a bulletin or something. They would always invite me in to have some wine and some cheese--very hospitable people, as you know.

Finally I got to know them and got them in this association. E. Pasque was one of the first members. One day he said to me, "Mr. Albaugh, I'm going to join the association. I don't think it'll do me any good but I want to help you." That started it. I. Sciaroni was another great promoter in this project. Henry Claussen, Robert Bowen were some of the pioneer leaders who helped get these organizations going.

Ray Rianda was an active community leader, especially in the dairy business. When he retired from his dairying operation he became active in the Soil Conservation Service and served as the State president with great dignity.

Frank Corda was one of the prominent dairy leaders in Monterey County and he developed one of the high-performing purebred Holstein herds in California.

Cow testers were hard to find--good ones--and we imported them from Wisconsin. I got two good ones, Oren Ellingson and Chet Larson. I think you knew Chet, but probably didn't know Oren. With the man we already had we had three one-man cow testing units. There were about four thousand cows or more in each unit. In the wintertime we held schools for these dairymen. We'd have ten lessons. This was carried on in conjunction with the high school at Gonzales. The schools had good attendance because it was a very fine program.

In the dairy business we had two diseases that were very important during those times. One was tuberculosis and the other was brucellosis. We toured the county to emphasize the importance of testing and cleaning up for T.B. Dr. C. B. Outhier was a county veterinarian who worked with us very closely on this project. I bought a cow on my own--that cost me forty dollars--we thought she had T.B. Dr. Outhier slaughtered her and showed the lungs and other organs that were diseased. From that point on the dairymen began to realize it was important to clean up for T.B. When it became compulsory to do that, our people were pretty well educated and we had no trouble at all in getting it done.

#### 4-H Club

Albaugh: The 4-H program was a good one in this county with some excellent



Albaugh: leaders e.g., Miss Eileen Harris who taught school in Greenfield; Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Schulte from Carmel Valley who made a very excellent team. We had a demonstration showing the four H's and it was so good that we took it to Sacramento and put it on before the legislature. The assemblyman from Carmel Valley (I've forgotten his name) introduced those 4-H'ers and the leaders to the legislators. They really stole the show. We weren't asking for any money at that time but I know that it helped the university budget tremendously because of the way those kids performed at that particular demonstration.

We had a two-day camp each year at Asilomar. Many of the children had never seen the ocean. That was one of the highlights of the 4-H program. I was in charge of that for eight years. When Tommy Thwaites came as a third farm advisor during the depression, he was then assigned to the club program.

Trescony: Do you remember your first automobile?

Albaugh: My first car in the Extension Service was an open Model T Ford. In the wintertime we put curtains on it. The wind blows quite hard in the Salinas Valley, particularly in the summertime. We used to say that the wind blew so hard that it blew the floor boards back up in your face! In the wintertime, I wore a big sheepskin coat to keep warm. The next car I had was a Model A. Finally we got some better cars, some Dodges which gave us pretty good transportation.

Dickman: How were the roads?

Albaugh: (Laughter) The roads were not too good. They were narrow, of course, and out in the country they were gravelled. I don't remember having any difficulty negotiating the roads but after a year or two, of course, we knew all the roads in the county. It's a big county--125 miles long. We covered from Big Sur, Parkfield to Watsonville. I traveled between 25 and 35 thousand miles a year.

#### The Albaugh Clan

Trescony: When you first came into Monterey County, you were a bachelor if I remember.

Albaugh: That's right, Julius. Vira and I were married on September 23, 1927, shortly after I came here. I have discussed this courtship





Son Glen, wife Vira, daughter Barbara and Rube Albaugh, February 1957.



Wedding party, left to right: Harold Lawless, Claudia Lawless, Pat Albaugh, Glen Albaugh, Vira and Rube Albaugh, September 1957.



The pride of our family, Barbara and her husband Bill, with children Susan, Danny and David. September 1957.



Albaugh: earlier in my memoir. We were married in Reno, Nevada. We moved here and lived on Harvest Street. Both of our children, Barbara and Glen, were born in Salinas. They went through schools there and both of them graduated from San Jose State. Glen then went to the University of Utah to obtain his Ph.D. degree. Barbara teaches in junior high school in the San Jose School System. Glen is on the faculty of the University of the Pacific in Stockton; his main responsibility is instructing graduate students who are majoring in physical education. He recently became a full professor.

Barbara is the pride of our family. In many ways she is much like my mother, generous, kind and helpful to others. She is an excellent cook and a top-hand in the classroom. She is married to Bill Kraus who is in charge of the English curriculum in fifteen high schools in the San Jose area. They have four children--David, Daniel, Susan and Billie.

Glen married Pat Lawless, a former queen of the El Dorado County Fair. Pat is employed as a secretary at the Stockton Residential Facility. She is an expert interior decorator. They have two children--Jennifer and Jeffrey.

We have six grandchildren and they're all good-looking and smart, as you know, like yours are.

Trescony: (Laughter).

Albaugh: And we have a very close family. We get along very well. We have some very good times together. We're very proud of them.

Trescony: Well, you have a right to be.

#### Big Time Extension Programs

Trescony: If you remember, Rube, in those early days practically every rancher, had chickens, raised some turkeys, and everybody had a little flock of sheep and raised a few hogs. Nowadays these are special businesses. You're either a big hog raiser, a big cattle raiser or you're big in the chicken business. But in those days everybody was more or less self-sufficient. They had their own meat and raised their own eggs and made their own bread, you might say. We're living in a different world today, Maybe you could comment on that.

Albaugh: Yes, you're right, Julius, they were more diversified in those days and as you say, more self-sufficient. I don't know why we've





Barbara and Glen, vacationing on their grandfather's ranch near Pittville, 1939.



Grandma with her flock, left to right: Jennifer, Billie, Danny, Jeffrey, David and Susan. 1964.







## The "Lean" Years

Trescony: (Laughter) Rube, you were here during the bad days and the bad years of the depression and maybe you could tell us something about some of the problems we had and what you did to help us work out these difficulties.

Albaugh: Well, as you know, 1932 was a very tough year. And that's the year that Franklin Roosevelt was in office and started the New Deal. He had the brain trusters, you remember? Henry Wallace was his secretary of agriculture. Rexford Guy Tugwell was his under secretary.

Trescony: WPA.

Albaugh: The WPA (Works Progress Administration) was there but we were more concerned, of course, with the triple A program on wheat and on the corn-hog program. I don't think you were eligible for either one of them.

Trescony: No.

Albaugh: We were very busy on that. A. A. Tavernetti took care of the wheat section and I was assigned to the corn-hog department. Of course, the corn-hog program took in most of the cattle people and as I say most of them were broke. Kenneth Eade and all of those people were in bad shape and this program came along, I think, in good time. I really enjoyed working on that because it was a way that we could get some money to these people to help them so they wouldn't be foreclosed. Many of these ranches were being foreclosed as you'll remember. The banks were foreclosing right and left.

I want to bring this out because the first meeting we held on the corn-hog deal was in King City. We had about twenty-five or thirty people at this meeting and I was explaining the program. What we had to do--we had to sign contracts; we had to get maps of the ranches, as you'll remember; we had to get receipts of these hogs that had been sold before and we had to make surveys. A man by the name of A. E. Reynolds was at the meeting. He was against this whole program. He thought it was wrong because he didn't need any government money. The rest of them wanted it and they were very concerned about it. After the meeting a young man came up to me and said, "I want to help you with this program." That was Kenneth Eade. I had met him at your place once but didn't recognize him. This was something unusual to me to have somebody come up and say, "I want to help you do something." And I said, "All right, Kenneth, you can make a survey of your



Albaugh: area. As soon as you get it done bring it in the office."

In a couple of days he was in the office with a survey completed. He said, "I'd like to get a job working in this office. I'm broke." And I said, "Kenneth, we only pay \$3.50 a day." And he said, "That's all right, I'll stay at my mother-in-law's. She lives here in Salinas and I'll help you in the office." He had gone through business college and knew something about records so we hired him and he eventually got to be president of the corn-hog program. We held many meetings on it. I remember one night coming out of the King City High School. There was a fountain with water in it, you know? Bill Eade, who was Kenneth's uncle, was laughing and joking and telling something and he walked and fell down right into this pool of water.

Trescony: (Laughter).

#### Corn Hog Production

Albaugh: Jess and Warren Cornwell were in the corn-hog program. They were identical twins. I met Jess on the street in King City sometime in June after we started this program. He said to me, "When in the hell am I going to get my government money? I'm broke." And I said, "We're going to give it to you, Jess, just before Big Week (Rodeo Week)." He said, "Why just before Big Week?" "Well, we want you to rent a hotel room this year." He said, "I don't know why I should want to rent a room," he said, "it only lasts three days." Of course I was being humorous. What he would do was go up there and play poker all night and go to the show in the daytime. So you see he had no use for a room. Big Week is the Rodeo time in Salinas. Anyhow, the corn-hog program went over and it was a success. The Brennan Brothers, Bill and Tom, were also members of this program. Tom was on the sign up committee, and he was supposed to write the name of the ranch on each contract, so he signed them all "El Rancho". They went back to Washington and since they didn't know what El Rancho meant, they returned the contracts and we had to re-do them. Harold Eade and Jack Wiley were important committeemen on this program.

Trescony: (Laughter).

Albaugh: Tom laughed about that.



Drought Relief Purchases

Albaugh: During 1932 through '34 the government had a drought livestock buying program. During those two years (I know these figures to be exact) the United States bought, killed and canned over four million head of cattle and calves under the drought buying to relieve the situation. They'd pay all the way from five to fifteen dollars a head for diseased, crippled or old cattle, and hogs the same way. Kenneth Eade worked on that program. Tom Thwaites worked on it also. I helped some on the program as well, and it was a good program.

Jan Martinus was the first president of the wheat program and I think Jan probably was president as long as that program was in existence. Of course, it's changed now and it's called the Agricultural Conservation Association. Isn't that right, Julius?

Trescony: That's right.

Albaugh: Weren't you president of that at one time?

Trescony: I was at one time, yes.

Albaugh: Yes, that's what I thought. I've forgotten how long ago.

Trescony: It's hard to remember all those things.

Albaugh: Well during this depression, Julius, and during the drought banks foreclosed on quite a few ranches, do you remember?

Trescony: Well, I remember that several people came to me wondering what they could do and I said, "Well, we've got an act that has been passed by congress--the Sherman-Lempky Act which gives us a chance to buy our property back." Several of them used this law. I don't like to mention names because most of them are still in business--but if it hadn't been for that Sherman-Lempky Act many of them would have lost their ranches.

Foreclosing on Land-Grants

Albaugh: Yes. Well, I know one particular ranch (the Topo Ranch) that was in a sad situation. A prominent bank had foreclosed. Their bank representative, Donald Graham, called me one day and said, "I'd like to have you visit some of these ranches that we have foreclosed on." I said, "All right." So the first place we



Albaugh: visited was the Griffin Ranch, where I met Jerome Griffin. They were working cattle. Mr. Graham talked to them and told them what he wanted done. We went over to the Breen Ranch. I said to Mr. Graham, "This is an interesting ranch. The Breens came over with the Donner Party. It's a shame that they have to lose this ranch." And he said to me, "Well, I don't know as it is, if they had a little more fire in their pants, they never would have lost it!" Ed Breen rode up and talked to us and Mr. Graham told him what he wanted done. He wanted him to move some cattle. Ed Breen said, "I just came from the old homestead and there's a rose bush there that my mother planted. I would like to bring that rose bush up and plant it by the house." Graham then answered, "You leave that rose bush right where it is, you're not going to move it." We left and I said to Donald Graham, "Weren't you pretty tough on him today?" "Well," he said, "you've got to be that way with that kind of people."

Albaugh: The Julius, you had a mortgage on this ranch when your father died and I know you had a tough time paying it off and the creditors were nipping at your heels, too.

Trescony: Yeh, they were. I was pretty heavily involved to the extent that I bought my brother out which cost me \$75,000 and I'd made arrangements with my sister to pay her off in time and so I told the bank, "I can work this out but you've got to give me some tools to work with." At that time I didn't have a tractor. It so happened that A. P. Giannini's son, Mario, came to the ranch with the branch manager of the bank and said to me, "How are you getting along?" And I said, "Well, Mr. Giannini, I'm starving to death." "What do you mean, you're not getting enough to eat?" I said, "I don't mean that, but you're starving the business. You don't give me the tools--if you'll give me the right tools, I know that I can work this out." "Well," he said, "You come up to San Francisco and see me and we'll talk this over."

That was the turning point in my life. Because at one time I owed \$317,000 and that was a lot of money. In fact, it was so much money that they were afraid to foreclose. I had one legal technicality that my grandfather left the property to us children. I found out the technicality from my attorneys so I used that to the best advantage. The ranch should never have been mortgaged. All this happened before my time and my father's time. From that time on conditions improved. I paid off the mortgage and I'm here today to tell the story.

Albaugh: Julius, one time I said to you, "Why do you keep this place looking so neat and trim?" You answered, "Well, when the sheriff comes after it, I want him to be proud of it!"



Trescony: Tom Mayhew brought Louis Rochford here. He was a cattle specialist and I remember distinctly that he brought him to meet me first. I was very happy about that because I had a chance to talk with him and tell him a lot about the ranches in the county and who and how deserving the ranchers were and it was a matter of time that we needed so that everybody could pay off their debts.

Albaugh: Louie Rochford was the first Extension specialist we had in beef cattle and he had been trained in Colorado. He's a brilliant man, very capable as an Extension worker. We started a beef cattle program in this county that probably was one of the best ones in the state.

#### Monterey County Cattlemen's Association

Albaugh: The first thing we did was to organize a cattlemen's association.

Trescony: You were responsible for that, Rube. You started the first Monterey County Cattlemen's Association.

Albaugh: Jim Bardin and I worked on that and Jim was just a young man out of Stanford. A man by the name of H. M. Rice, who had been my schoolteacher, was working for the Western Marketing Association. He came to Salinas and said we should have a meeting down here and form an organization. That started it and we formed this organization in 1936. That association is still running and it would be forty years old today.

We completed a lot of projects. One of the things I remember that was written into the bylaws was that this organization would cooperate with the University of California on research and education pertaining to the efficiency of production of beef cattle. I don't think that's written in any other cattlemens association bylaws.

In this cattle program we held many meetings, of course. One of the first meetings was held at the Silacci Grove and I think maybe you'll remember that meeting, Julius. I was looking the other day at the picture of the planning committee that put that first meeting on in 1937 and you know there are only two of us still alive--Jim Bardin and I.

Trescony: Think of that.

Albaugh: That group consisted of Silacci brothers, Albert Hansen and Walter Bardin, remember?



Trescony: I remember.

### Cost Studies

Albaugh: And then, of course, we did so many different field tests and demonstrations and I can't go through all of them here but you remember we held those trials here on your ranch feeding cotton-seed cake on the range. Then we compared the differences in rate of gain between the native cattle and the Arizona cattle you had then.

We ran a study on ten ranches on the cost of producing beef in '35 to '39. We had this range bull get-of-sire program. John Layous and Hunt properties and Walter Markham were involved. We bred these cows to a certain bull and exhibited the progeny at the state fair and other events. The Settrini Brothers of Salinas worked closely with me, too; we fed out steers at their feedlot. They were Good grade steers compared to Medium grade steers. We also fed some steers on sudangrass pasture. In carrying on these field trials with the Settrinis, Doug Allmond a dairyman from the Prunedale area, was usually on hand to help us--he was a good worker.

We conducted some trials on feeding weaner calves. These tests were conducted on the Markham Ranch, Haldorn Ranch, Settrini Brothers and Martinus Ranch. We had several different trials at Jim Bardin's place--one was feeding steers minerals (some of them were expensive) in the drylot. Jim was the first man to feed grain on permanent pasture to fatten cattle, and it really worked! That was during the war.

Another project was developing plans and specifications for equipment. As you remember, we got several ideas for equipment from your ranch that we included in a bulletin.

Trescony: Remember the "breeding yearling heifers" program?

Albaugh: I want to talk about that a little more later on. The cost of producing beef on irrigated pasture was another program.

During my twenty-two years here, I'm sure you will be interested to know what I think were my two most important far-reaching research projects to try to change practices. One of them was breeding these heifers at an early age and the other was controlling brucellosis with Strain-19 vaccine.



### Breeding Yearling Heifers

Albaugh: Breeding yearling heifers started on your place, and the Layous Ranch, and on the Hunt Ranch in Big Sur. Rudolph Asmus was manager of the El Sur Ranch, and we started gathering data on this program in 1936 and Rudolph furnished me accurate records on that ranch for seventeen years. The way we began breeding Angus bulls to these Hereford heifers was at John Layous' place. I was on his ranch, I think it was just before 1941. I asked John, "Why don't you try some Angus bulls on these nice heifers?" He said, "Do you think it will work?" And I said, "I think it would." And he went down to the Ed Biaggini Ranch in San Luis Obispo.

He got two bulls and bred these forty some heifers and they had almost 100 percent calf crop. They didn't have to pull any. That same year you (Trescony) bred heifers to a Hereford bull and I decided that we better hold a tour to show the results of this. Kenneth Eade was president of the cattlemen's association. I called him and he said, "Yes, we'll work with you." So I called Dr. Hart at Davis and said, "Dr. Hart, we're holding this meeting and I want you to come down. I want you to talk about the feed situation (because he was on the U.S. Feed Board) and I want you to bring Dr. Harold Cole down because he's done some work on breeding rats at an early age. It might help us on this program." That was the first field meeting that Dr. Cole had ever attended. They came down and we met at Layous' and we also came to your place, remember that? Dr. Hart talked right out here by the barn about the feed situation. This was the beginning of emphasizing this particular program that now has wide adaptation all over the country. That evening when we went back to Salinas-- I'm talking about Dr. Hart, and Dr. Cole, we had dinner, went up to Dr. Hart's room and he said, "This is so good," he said, "we're going to start publicizing it." And he said to Dr. Cole, "You take the notes and I'll dictate to you what to say." He dictated an article to him that eventually we used in some of our other publications on this subject of breeding yearling heifers.

### Controlling Brucellosis

Albaugh: The other program that had high significance was controlling brucellosis with Strain-19 vaccine. Two veterinarians in the U.S.D.A. by the name of Cotton and Buck had developed this Strain-19 vaccine. Dr. C. M. Haring, who was chief of the Division of Veterinary Science at Berkeley was anxious to try it out. He wanted to try it out on a large scale. He wanted to go into one



Albaugh: county with it. We heard that this program was available and Al Clark and I got together and decided that we would invite Dr. Haring to Monterey County so we could hear about the program and offer our cooperation. We had a meeting in Soledad attended mostly by dairymen and Haring told about this program and said it had to be handled by a veterinarian and the farm advisor and that he would like to come to Monterey County because Dr. Outhier was a great friend of his, and would handle it efficiently. So we discussed it. But Dr. Haring said, "What we need, is four thousand head of dairy cattle and four thousand head of beef cattle. These cattle have got to be bled. We have to find out the incidence of this disease in these herds."

We started out on this project, Clark and I together, and got enough signed up for it. We got the schedule signed up to bleed these dairy cattle. Dr. Haring came down to help start the bleeding program and the first thing he did was he put a white apron on me and he said, "You're going to learn to bleed cattle." And I said, "I'm not supposed to bleed cattle." He said, "Doctors have their nurses bleed the patient, you're going to be my nurse!" So I learned to bleed cattle and got to be an expert at it, before we finished. Julius, were you in that? I know Louie Echenique was in it too.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: We bled the beef cattle at the same time they were testing for tuberculosis. We found that there was an infection of over 20 percent in dairy cattle and about 8 percent in beef cattle. We started vaccinating, using Strain-19 and at the end of six years, carrying this program on we had reduced the incidence of the disease to 5 percent in the dairy cattle and about 8/10ths of a percent in the beef cattle.

Trescony: Is that right?

Albaugh: The result was that this program was a forerunner to the law that we had to vaccinate to control this disease. This was up before the legislature. Dan McKinney was secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association and he was against this program because he thought the beef cattlemen were going to have to vaccinate. Irving Armstrong was president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association at that time and said to me, "What about this? I know you have been doing a lot of work in this county?" And I said, "Irving, he's wrong. Dan McKinney is absolutely wrong." So Irving called a meeting of his directors of the Cattlemen's Association and Dr. Outhier and I attended it and told them what our results were. The next day Irving Armstrong came to my office and called Dan McKinney and said, "Dan, lay off of that, I want



Albaugh: you to vote for it, this is a good thing, let's help the dairymen, let's clean up this disease." And this was the key to controlling the brucellosis in beef and dairy cattle.

Trescony: Wasn't this one of the first counties to start this program and eventually have a record of one of the cleanest counties in the state?

Albaugh: Yes it was, Julius. And there's one other thing I forgot. The first time that we tried Strain-19 to control calf losses was on Jim Bardin's ranch and this was a few months before we moved into this program. He was having so much trouble with abortions so we vaccinated every cow on his ranch to stop this. He was the first man to cooperate on that project. Jim never turned me down if I asked him to do something. He was a great cooperator.

#### Swine Production

Trescony: He is a good man. In addition to the work we did with the cattle, Rube, I know you carried the torch and you worked hard towards erradicating the trouble we had with hogs in Monterey County. At that time there were a lot of hogs. Practically every rancher had hogs and we had our problems and you helped us solve those problems. Will you talk about that a little?

Albaugh: Yes. Julius, you were right. I think, there were between thirty-five and forty thousand head of hogs here at one time. This was during the late '30s and the early '40s and we did do considerable amount of field testing particularly on nutrition with hogs. For instance, at that time prunes were a drug on the market and we had to find out whether or not we could feed prunes. We carried on two extensive feeding tests with Jan Martinus to determine what percent of prunes one could feed and what was the value of prunes. We found that in those tests--and they held up later with those run in the Experiment Station--that prunes were worth about 65 percent of the value of barley in fattening hogs and you could feed up to about 30 percent in the ration. That was something brand new at the time.

We also conducted some tests with John Layous on feeding. We fed barley and alfalfa meal, ground barley that wasn't supplemented and we also fed these hogs on pasture and supplemented them with barley. We did that at the Crinklaw place too. We found out that we could fatten hogs--on alfalfa pasture and straight barley just about as well as if we put them in a dry lot and supplemented them with fish meal or some other high-protein feed. This was quite a thing.



Albaugh: Another thing we did with Martinus was to carry on a test over there on what we called free-choice feeding. We put the barley in one place and the protein supplement and the mineral in another. We had two trials on that. We found that those hogs could balance the ration better than we could, which was very, very good. We carried on an experiment feeding yeast to hogs with a man by the name of Geer of Salinas. In addition to that, we held numerous swine meetings where we had speakers like Elmer Hughes from Davis also Dr. Hayes, a veterinarian from UCD. We held most of these meetings in San Lucas, as you'll remember, in the loft of Bunte's store.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: Also, we'd bring hogs in and have some grading demonstrations. Then an auction sale would take place. Fred Alm bought many of those hogs for us. Who was he buying for, Julius?

Trescony: For Irving Bray.

Albaugh: That's right. Those people all helped us, Julius; they were so cooperative, as they wanted to see these things go. Yes, we did quite a bit on the hog deal, and as I understand, there aren't any hogs left in the county?

Trescony: Practically none. At that time Irving Bray was the leading livestock dealer in California. He is a real gentleman, generous and has a reputation for integrity. As you recall, he is the cattleman that ramrodded the litigation in 1974 against the A & P chain stores for price fixing. The cattlemen won this 34 million dollar lawsuit.

Albaugh: Yes--I second everything you say about Irving. The results of the litigation were a real victory for the cattle producers. His brother Roy has been very active in community affairs, having been president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association and director of the California Cattlemen's Association. Roy has always supported CBCIA bull sales.

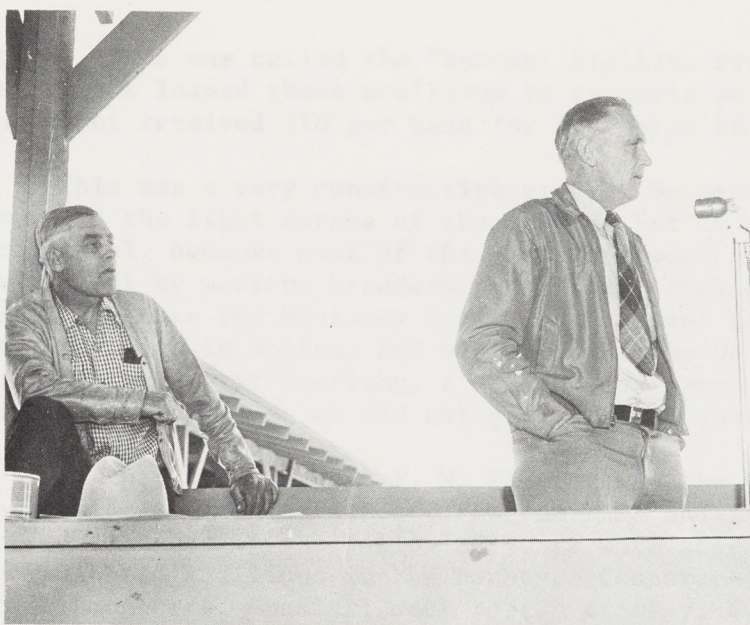
#### Remount Stallion Program

Trescony: Rube, I'd like for you to tell us in detail about the horse improvement program that was carried on in this county in cooperation with the government.

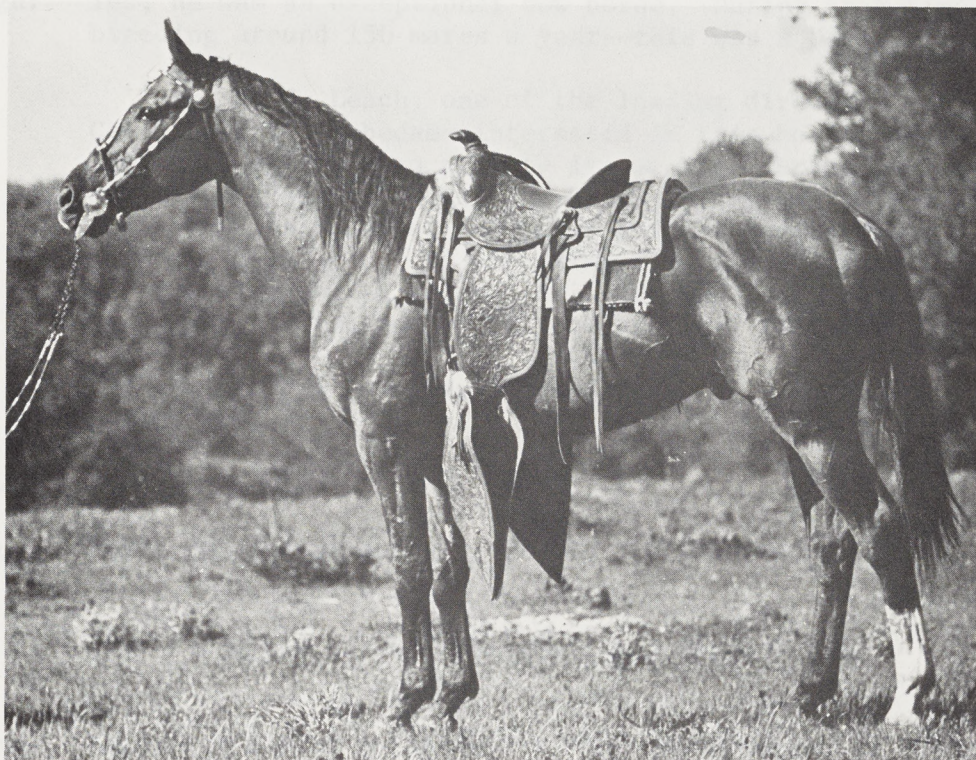
Albaugh: In 1913 the U.S. War Department had instituted a program to improve the light horses of the country, for use in their calvary

Boom, a government remount station, here in Salinas, California. This government program was in improving the light horses of the West.





Rube Albaugh lecturing at the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association meeting. Julius Trescony at left was president and chairman of this event.



Boom, a government remount stallion, formerly stationed on the F. A. Dougherty Ranch, Salinas, California. This government program was initiated in 1913, and was instrumental in improving the light horses of the West.



Albaugh: units. This was called the "Remount Stallion Program." The War Department loaned these stallions to ranchers as their agents. The agent received \$10 per head for the mares they bred.

This was a very constructive program because it not only improved the light horses of the country but it was relatively economical, because most of the stallions were given to the government by wealthy breeders. The first stallion that we were able to secure for Monterey County was a horse called Mufti. He was stationed in Salinas and was cared for by Del Owens, who was working for Lester Sterling, a wealthy cattleman. Mufti turned out to be sterile so we did not get far with that horse.

At that time Colonel F. W. Koester was the Director of the Western Region of the Remount Program. He and I became very close friends and during the following years were able to obtain five Thoroughbred stallions in the county. Cooperating agents were: Frank Dougherty, Chualar; Jack Botts, Brawley; Varian Brown, San Ardo; Butch Norris, Long Valley and Dick Collins of Monterey. I know you also bred some mares to K of K, the stallion located at San Ardo.

Trescony: Yes. I got a black colt that turned out to be a real cow horse. Jerry Griffin broke him.

Albaugh: Yes, he was an exceptional cow horse. During that time we were breeding around 150 mares a year--this was a big program.

Dr. E. J. Leach, one of the leading directors of the California Rodeo became interested in this horse improvement program. In order to promote it, we would bring in remount stallions from throughout the state and parade them before the grandstand each day of the rodeo and this program was explained. This was carried on for approximately fifteen years. In addition to promoting better horses, it saved the rodeo association an amusement tax because of this educational feature.

This was a government program that I thought had a lot of merit, Julius.

Trescony: It was necessary.

Albaugh: Practical and wonderful. It was discontinued in 1950.

#### Grazing Livestock on Military Reservations

Trescony: Rube, let's talk a little bit about the program of utilizing



Trescony: military reservations for grazing livestock. You worked on this project, so tell us more in detail how it started, what you did, and the results.

Albaugh: The army had bought Fort Ord and they purchased Hunter-Leggett from the Hearst people and they also bought Camp Roberts from I. W. Hellman, who owned the Nacimiento Ranch. We thought, to help win the war effort, that the grass should be grazed on these military reservations. The military didn't think so. I called Dr. Hart at Davis and asked him if he would come down and meet with some of the people at Fort Ord. I can't remember the man's name who was in charge of Fort Ord at that time. We met with him and they weren't too receptive. I finally said to this general, "General, if this military reservation was in Germany they would be utilizing this feed to win the war, why can't we do it?" He said, "You've got a point, I think we can do it." In about two weeks he called back and he said, "Yes, we're going to lease it." Walter Markham, of course, was one of the main men who wanted to graze this area. So he and I went over to the military headquarters and got the lease. As generous a man as he is, he took in the Guidottis and the Bingamans. They had previously owned that land. At that time I bought about thirty-five head of cattle from you, do you remember that, Julius? I think I paid you about ten cents a pound for them. I ran them on Fort Ord with these other cowmen. They wanted me in on it. That spring when we sold the cattle, they didn't charge me any fee for the feed. Of course, I made quite a bit of money on those cattle because the price went up during the war. After we got the Ford Ord lease, the Hunter-Leggett deal broke. Jan Martinus called me one night and said, "Rube, can you come down tomorrow? Hunter-Leggett is open, I want to go over and look at this land and I want to bid on it. I can't handle it all alone. Is there anybody around Salinas who can help me? How about Walter Markham?" I called Walter and said, "Walter, this is the situation." He said, "I'll be by your house in a few minutes." He came by and brought a check signed and left the amount blank. He said, "You go down there and use your own judgement, bid on this and I'll take half of it. Whatever you and Jan do will be okay with me." So we met the military man. There were two other men there Frank Williams and his father. Do you remember Frank Williams, Julius?

Trescony: Yes I remember Frank.

Albaugh: Smart, astute people. We met with them at Paso Robles and Jan said, "Well how much are we going to bid on this land?" This was our first experience in bidding on anything like this and we finally bid \$3,600 and when he opened the bids both of them were \$3,600. So I said, "Jan, you want this property pretty badly, and we surely don't want to put in round numbers again."



Albaugh: So we bid \$4,160; they bid \$4,500 and got it. They turned in a lot of cattle; many more than they were supposed to. You'll remember they had leased only a small portion of Hunter-Leggett. Then several people began turning cattle on the reservation so the army said, "All right, we're going to lease it all." Jan then organized the Pacific Cattle Company.

Trescony: That's right.

Albaugh: This company was composed of Shorty Williamson, Jim Barbree, Irving Bray, Chet Behen and Jan Martinus. They rented 96,000 acres, and were known as the Big Five. Then Camp Roberts was opened up; they grazed sheep and made it possible to utilize this land for this war effort.

#### Cattle Scab

Trescony: Rube, during your time as a farm advisor, we had an outbreak of cattle scab. Can you tell us about that?

Albaugh: This was a tough parasite to control and it was known as Sarcoptic cattle scab. It was first discovered in Shorty Williamson's cattle in King City. In order to treat these infected cattle, they had to be dipped in a hot solution of lime sulphur. There were no dipping vats in the county; they had to be built. It so happened the University had just developed some blueprints and specifications for dipping vats. I gave these to Shorty and he built a very fine vat. We had no idea how to heat this solution, so we went to Madera and met with Thompson and Gill, livestock equipment dealers. They had a heating unit which Shorty bought and installed. These cattle had to be re-dipped seven to ten days after the first treatment. Shorty charged twenty-five cents a head and furnished the material. Dr. Ray Duckworth, head of the State Department of Agriculture, was in charge of this statewide cleanup program. It was here that I met Chet Behen who was then working for Irving Bray. Chet is one of my top hand champions.

This example of assisting these large operations indicates they never got too big to ask for help from Extension.

Trescony: You spent quite some time on the Mee Ranch.

Albaugh: Yes, George Mee was an excellent cattleman. He developed Peach Tree Ranch to the nth degree. He drilled several wells and put in several hundred acres of irrigated pasture. He also established a purebred herd of Hereford cattle. We helped him on all these projects.



Albaugh:

Working for him then was John Anderson and Harold Thurber-- both of these gentlemen became farm advisors--John in Mariposa and Harold in Imperial. Harold now manages the livestock on Tejon Ranch in Bakersfield. It so happens I recommended both of these fellows to join Extension. In a recent letter from John Anderson he stated, "I was a completely happy cowboy in Monterey County in 1947 when Rube talked me into applying for Extension. I have never been certain as to whether I should be grateful to him for this! I believe you will find Rube was very influential in recruitment of livestock farm advisors over the years."

#### Loan Bull Program

Trescony: What were some of the other UC cattle programs?

Albaugh: We had what was called a UC loan bull program and these bulls were loaned by Professor Guilbert to cattle cooperators. Two or more were bred to a group of twenty-five or thirty cows. The steer progeny would go back to Davis and were fed out. This data was used to determine whether or not these bulls had a high heritability for rate of gain, carcass cut-out, etc. This was the first pioneer work on performance testing.

The first year of this program we got four bulls. Two of them went to Harry Hunt and two to Walter Markham. The Hunt bulls didn't turn out too well. One of them became ill and was returned to Davis; the other one didn't breed too well. However, Markham's bulls did quite well. Some people made fun of these bulls because of their conformation. One of these bull's calves gained over three pounds per day--that was quite a gain in those days. We got additional bulls after that--we had three at Rosenbergs.

At one time we had all the loan bulls from the Davis research station in Monterey County. I remember one meeting we held at Rosenberg's to explain this program. He had a barbecue and showed all these cattle in the morning, explaining the program. Just before we sat down to eat dinner, Rosenberg hammered on a tin pan and called everybody's attention and said, very loudly, "Mother's going to cheat the government; she's going to live forever." She was about ninety years old then. Everyone got a kick out of that, of course.

This loan bull program certainly did much to stimulate interest in breeding better cattle and testing bulls on ranches. I went to Miles City, Montana--paid my own expenses because the University didn't think it was worthwhile. I went up there to find out about



Albaugh: this progeny testing work and about the crossbreeding experiments they were doing there. I met Bradford Knapp and he and I got along very well and I said to Bradford Knapp, "I want to start this program in Monterey County." He said, "All right." He gave me the formula and the whole plan and I came back and for two weeks I talked to Walter Markham and I wouldn't let him talk about anything else except progeny testing his cattle. Finally he said, "Let's do it." He was the first man in the United States, outside of the Experiment Station, who conducted that performance testing on his bulls for rate and economy of gain. He would be doing it today if he weren't out of the business. It was Walter Markham's pioneer work that got this started in many other counties in California, which was something.

Trescony: It was initiated here.

#### Crossbreeding

Albaugh: I also saw the crossbreeding work that was being done at Miles City. I came back here, gave some talks on crossbreeding. Julius Trescony was the first man to adopt this program in this county and you had two UC loan bulls, Julius.

Trescony: That's right. Two Angus bulls.

Albaugh: They were used to start a three-way crossbreeding program and it worked for a few years, and then what happened--drought came in and you had to sell.

Trescony: Sold some, yes.

Albaugh: Sold out but you had a fine herd.

Trescony: That was a good herd.

Albaugh: And everybody was copying your program.

Trescony: That's right.

Albaugh: They came here to look at it and copy--a good demonstration.

Trescony: Everybody was doing the same thing.



The Texas Trek

Trescony: You talked about a trip you made on your own. I remember another trip that you made with Bill Jeffery. The two of you went down to Texas.

Albaugh: Yes we went to Texas and that was in 1947.

Trescony: Texas that's right. You better tell us about it.

Albaugh: The reason I went is because Bill Jeffery ran a hotel in Salinas. He was interested in breeding cattle and he was the first fellow that took these big growthy cattle like Charolais and cut them out in his hotel and cooked them and got the drip and the fat and he really had a good program but people didn't believe him as you'll remember.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: He was well ahead of the times. He kept saying to me, "I'm going to Texas, down to the Houston Show, I'd like to have you go with me." I said, "Bill, I haven't got any money to go down there." He said, "Well, maybe somebody will give you some." Bruce Church heard that I wanted to go and he put up the money for me to go. Bruce Church was not only a cattleman but he was a very extensive vegetable producer. He had a herd of cattle in Tucson, Arizona. I got the money and Bill and I went and we saw Charolais, Brahman cattle and Quarter horses. The highlight was the King Ranch. We spent two days at this famous ranch seeing how they operated, saw their horses, their cattle--Santa Gertrudis cattle. It was a remarkable trip.

When I got back, of course, I wrote a report and gave it to Bruce. It was my first introduction to Brahman, Charolais cattle, and Quarter horses. Of course, all these three breeds of livestock are quite prominent now. The King Ranch--the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle was the first American breed that was developed in this country, and it was done very scientifically. These Santa Gertrudis are three-eighths Brahman and five-eighths Shorthorn. They had a bull they called Monkey, that was real potent for the traits that they wanted. They carried on an extensive inbreeding program to develop this breed.

The other scientific work they did was to develop a superior strain of Quarter horse. They had a horse they called Old Sorrel. He was a half Thoroughbred and he had real good cow sense. He was a top producer and they inbred him heavily and developed this great strain of Quarter horses. The King Ranch cattle are red and



Albaugh: the horses are sorrel. This of course, was very impressive to me. In addition to that, they had a string of Thoroughbred horses. They won the Kentucky Derby with two of their horses, Assault and Middle Ground, which shows that they were on the right track as far as improved breeding was concerned.

Trescony: Rube, you have always thought quite a bit of the Longhorn breed of cattle. In fact, I think you've written some stories about them. Have you had any other experiences?

Albaugh: Yes, during 1945 Lester Sterling, successful vegetable grower and cattleman of Salinas, shipped in from Old Mexico several hundred head of Longhorn steers. Before feeding them out, he decided to dehorn and brand them. He invited me to help with this unusual task. Jim Bardin, his Japanese cowboy and others, assisted with this assignment. Lester loaned me one of his best cow horses, and we roped these cattle (rather than put them through the chute). Some of these cattle were ten to twelve years of age, so the horns were huge. While roping these cattle, I thought about the pioneer cattlemen that drove up the long trail. This was an experience I have cherished very much, and I do believe this was one of the few times these Longhorn cattle that originated in Old Mexico were handled in this manner.

#### The Trescony "Experiment Station"

Trescony: I might say at this time that when Rube Albaugh was in Monterey County, I felt that my ranch was an experiment station for the University of California. He was forever asking me, "Julius, let's try this, let's try that, let's try the other!"

#### From Brush to Barley

Trescony: And I'd say, "Rube we've got one problem here. On the back end of the ranch, we have a lot of brush, what are we going to do with that?" I said, "It's just wasteland--we're taxed. We have to pay taxes just the same, can't we do something about it?" We got our heads together and at that time, I think we were one of the first, if I do say so, to start this brush clearing program. I had a big roller--a big tank--and I had it arranged so I could push it ahead of a tractor.

Julius: We had to make some changes as we went along. It was new and we started first on chemise and coyote brush which is low, and we



Trescony: rolled that down, raked it up and burned it. Some people thought that all you had to do was roll the brush and burn it. That was a mistaken idea. You have to go in there with a big power disc and tear up those roots. Otherwise, nature doesn't give up very easily and brush will come back.

Rube, I want to tell you more about this program. Another thing that helped us, materially, was that the Triple A--Agricultural Adjustment Act--was making a payment of ten dollars an acre for this particular work. That way it helped to pay for it. But I want Rube to go on farther, because it was a program where many people came down here to see what we were doing. From there we went on to bigger experiments with larger machinery, such as tractors and plows. That was a start of clearing brush, I think, in Monterey County.

Albaugh: This brush clearing program, of course, during this time was a very important project. A committee at Davis, headed by Dr. Hart, was able to get permits to burn through the Legislature, what we call control burning. This, of course, was important to this brush clearing deal. But Julius you were the pioneer of this with your rolling and burning scheme. Other people followed the same kind of a program except they used bulldozers to mash the brush down so it would dry, then it could be burned, during the season when it wasn't so hazardous to burn. Fires wouldn't get away. But at that time we were using a lot of controlled burning.

After you got the brush off the question was, what were you going to do with the land? It had to be seeded to something. Julius, you were very successful in seeding barley. We ran fertilizer test plots. We also did chemical spraying.

Trescony: Certified seed.

Albaugh: Yes. We did other seeding, too. We found out that alfalfa could be grown successfully on this cleared land if handled correctly. The main reason that it wasn't done more extensively was because of gopher control. If we could control gophers I still think alfalfa would be a good crop to grow. This was done quite extensively over the county. Also, in addition to the rolling, burning and bulldozing, we did some brush burning without any special preparation. We also did some airplane spraying with 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T and that would kill quite an acreage of brush and then it could be burned and in that way we increased the carrying capacity of these ranges. Reseeding and fertilization never was too successful. Our summers were too hot and too dry to establish new stands of grasses and legumes as I remember, Julius.



Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: We had a control burn in Carmel Valley that got away and that's just before I left Monterey County. It was on the Allen Jacks Ranch. We had sprayed a large acreage over there and it was dry. We called in the State Division of Forestry and they were the ones who were going to make this burn. They burned, and it was on a hot day but the humidity was dropping when they started the fire. It got away and burned several hundred acres but--did very little damage and a lot of good. DeWitt Nelson, Chief of California Forestry Division came down and met with the people in Carmel and got the problem solved. Some people would say today, jokingly, the reason I left Monterey County was because I let that fire get away.

Trescony: (Laughter) This brush clearing helped in another way. At that time I was raising barley and was in the certified seed program. In order to raise certified seed, you had to plant it on clean ground and that was another advantage to using this land that was cleared. I planted this certified seed and in that way I was able to get good commercial use in addition to getting the payment from the Triple A. I also was able to meet the requirements of the Certified Seed Association and sold a lot of seed in that manner.

Albaugh: Another thing, Julius, that I noticed when we cleared this brush we also increased our water supply on the range.

Trescony: That's very true.

Albaugh: It increased the springs and from that standpoint it was good.

Trescony: I remember.

Albaugh: Under Dr. Veihmeyer and Dr. Hart's supervision we established several trials in the county. One of these trials was on your place to determine whether cleared areas or brush covered land had the most water run off. We found that about 25 percent of the water on this brushland never hits the ground. This water loss is from that lost from the leaf surface by transpiration and that from direct evaporation.

Trescony: That is right.

Albaugh: It was the conservation of water, too, that was very important.

Trescony: It helped all the springs we had on the ranch. In this matter of clearing brush and conservation and especially for water purposes, there's one spring on the ranch in particular where there were three or four beautiful big Live Oak trees. I hated to do this,



Trescony: but I cut them down and it made all the difference in the world. I was afraid that I was going to lose a spring and it's one of my best springs today. Just those few oak trees absorbed that amount of water. You can imagine what can be done proportionately along and in addition to that, it makes a lot of good growth--second growth for deer. People who are anxious to help their deer population do this annually. They get permits and meet the requirements of the Forest Service and burn out certain areas year after year, for two reasons, for water conservation and for deer habitat. We think it's one of the best programs.

Albaugh: Well, in addition to this brush deal as I mentioned before, we carried on many tests using different varieties of grasses and legumes. Also on your ranch, we had many, many rod-row tests on barleys and wheat and other cereals, Julius.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: And I'm sure as a result of those rod-row tests on barley that you were able to keep ahead of the hound, so to speak, on the type of barley to grow. For instance, I remember Arivat was one, and Rojo another.

Trescony: Mariout.

Albaugh: Mariout was one. You knew about them before the rest of the people did, even though we did hold meetings here to show them.

Trescony: Yes. I kept in close touch with the agronomy department at Davis through the farm advisor on the new varieties of barley. I made money from these different varieties. Well, in fact, I was the first one to ever plant Mariout barley, and I bought the entire output of seed from Davis. Lots of people came here to see it and were impressed. The yield was the heaviest I think we've ever had on barley. It happened to be a good year, of course, and as a result I netted three hundred and some dollars (\$310) an acre on dry land with this Mariout barley and I sold the entire output for seed and got all the way from eight to ten cents a pound. So I thank the agronomy department for that.

Albaugh: In addition to these we conducted many fertilizer tests. This was not only done on the range but on the barley land. We did get a response from nitrogen in most cases on our grasslands. We also got some response on cereals, but after I left here, Julius, they discovered new ways to fertilize and you got better results. Can you tell them that, I've forgotten what that was.

Trescony: We all followed a practice of summer fallowing. Due to the fact that our rainfall is short and every farmer who considered himself



Trescony: a farmer planted half of his ranch yearly and the other half he rested as fallowed land. Now everybody fertilizes. They have certain ways. Some people had a problem of wild oats. With airplanes they can eliminate the oat problem and have a cleaner crop on barley. So we've made great strides along that line and it's scientifically done. We've learned much and it's made it more profitable for the growers of barley in this area.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: Hunting in Northern California and Nevada

Trescony: Clover Valley  
Albaugh: Julius, we had a lot of good times together hunting. Remember when years ago we went to Modoc County the first time? We slipped in the back way, remember, I suggested that we go in the back way so nobody would see us. We arrived at Pete Springs that was a cold spring, and I said, "You've got to lie down here on your belly to drink." Julius did and he had on a pair of chaps and when he got up he had a porcupine quill in his chaps and he didn't know what it was because he'd never seen a porcupine.

Trescony: Yes that's the first time I ever met with a porcupine.

Albaugh: The Quaking Aspen trees were in this little flat and we got down to the cabin where there were some other people there. Roy Cessna and some of them and you talked about the porcupines and you called it Quakum Aspers or something, you didn't pronounce it right purposely because they thought well, this is a green guy from the valley. But we had some good times and I had as I've said many times, two good hunting horses and two good hunting dogs, remember those dogs?

Trescony: I remember.

Albaugh: I don't know whether we had too much luck but you went back there again and Slicker Rice was along. We went out in the lava, remember, and killed that buck and we told him he killed it and he thought he did. That's where we used the dog, old Ring, don't you remember?

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: Then Bill Lee hunted with us one year. Coming out up over Bald Mountain, a buck jumped up and Bill shot him and said, "I got him! I got him!" Remember?

Trescony: I remember that.



Albaugh: We went home; he and I went back in a car, got that deer and you stayed home because you weren't feeling too well. We hung it up at Bill's place and the next morning by gosh, a game warden came out there. This wasn't a legal deer and he was hanging in the barn but nobody saw him and that was it. (Laughter) But I think the most interesting deer story was in Nevada.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: The first year we hunted with Nick Giacoia over in the Ruby Mountains. What was the name of that valley? Do you remember?

Trescony: Clover Valley.

Albaugh: We did pretty well but the next year we went up to John Marble's place.

Trescony: Way up there.

#### The Marble Ranches

Albaugh: We hunted there and I killed a little buck that day, and we had a hard time getting him in and then John said the thing for you fellows to do is to go up to Bill Wright's. Bill Wright was a character and I must tell this because it fits in here. Bill Wright went to Dartmouth University and majored in history and English and when he finished, he decided that he would be a cattleman. He was coming to California and somebody said to him, "How're you going to get in the cattle business?" He said, "Well, I know a man by the name of Fred Bixby," (who gave a quarter of a million dollars to the University of California for the farm program.) He went to see Bixby who kind of took a liking to this fellow Bill Wright, who had no livestock experience. Bixby said, "I'll tell you what I'll do with you, Bill, I'm going to give you ten thousand dollars and you get in the car and go around the state and if you can find a ranch that suits me we'll buy it and go into a partnership. But," he said, "you're going to have to pay me back." So Bill got in the car and he finally landed at the Tularcitos Ranch in Carmel Valley. Julius' grandfather once owned it, but it was then owned by your cousin, Leo Crystal. He was an actor from New York City and he had to sell this place so Bill went back to Los Angeles and went into the office and wanted to see Mr. Bixby. Bixby wasn't there but his expert efficiency man was there. And the efficiency expert said, "Why don't you tell me about this place?" And he said, "All right." And he told him about the Tularcitos and said, "Well, there's no use you're staying around here because the place is too small.



Albaugh: Mr. Bixby's not interested in it." But John Marble's father was sitting in the office and he said to Bixby's efficiency expert, "Would you mind if Mr. Wright talked to me about the ranch?" "No," he said, "we are not interested because it's too small." So Wright and Marble got together and Mr. Marble said, "Let's go over and see the ranch." They got as far as Del Monte, in Monterey, the first night and Mr. Marble said, "Where do you think we should stay, Bill?" Bill said, "I stayed in a little hotel downtown here, that I would recommend." John Marble drove up in front of the Del Monte Hotel and looked around and said, "Well, this place looks all right, let's stay here." Bill said, "Well, you can stay here but I'll go down to the other place." He said, "No, you're my guest. Stay with me." They went up to the Tularcitos the next morning and Mr. Marble just looked around and scuffed the dirt a little bit and he said, "What do they want for this place?" Bill said, "Eight dollars an acre." And Marble said, "I'll take it." So, Julius, he bought the place from your cousin for eight dollars an acre. I don't know how many acres there were. Twelve thousand or something.

Trescony: A hundred and ten thousand dollars.

Albaugh: Was it? Well, whatever it was.

Trescony: I saw the check, that was a large check.

Albaugh: Okay, a hundred and ten thousand dollars. So then he said to Bill Wright, "Bill, you found me this ranch, what do I owe you?" And Bill said, "Well, I would like to lease it from you." He said, "Where are you going to get the money to stock it?" He said, "I'll borrow it from Bixby." "Aw," he said, "we won't do that, I'll tell you what we'll do. I'll hire you and give you two hundred dollars a month and you run it and any profit we make I'll give you 10 percent." Well, that was fine because here was a man from Dartmouth University who had majored in history and English without livestock experience. So he (laughter) stayed there about a month or two and Mr. Marble said, "We need some cattle to stock this. Go to Nevada and buy them." Bill Wright went to Nevada looking for cattle. This was about 1925 and things were pretty tough then, remember, only seven years after WWI. The old Union Land and Cattle Company was going broke and many people were going broke and Bill Wright saw this land that looked cheap to him. He wired Mr. Marble and he said, "There's some cheap land up here, I think maybe you ought to buy it." Mr. Marble phoned him and said, "Keep track of this property and when its ready for sale, let me know, phone me." So Bill found out that this Mary's River outfit and the Seventy One that you've been on, Julius, were going to be sold on the



Albaugh: courthouse steps on a certain day. Mr. Marble said, "I'll be there." He brought a hundred thousand dollar certified check and his attorney. They arrived in Elko, Nevada and went to the Court House. Two other men were there already who began bidding for this property. Wingfield, who owned a lot of banks in Nevada at that time, and Bill Moffett, who was a big cattle operator were the other two men bidding on the property. Marble leaned over to his attorney and said, "Raise them thirty thousand." He got the land. Marble's attorney said, "Here's a hundred thousand dollar certified check for part of the payment." The total bill was one hundred sixty thousand dollars. The attorney said, "I'll give you Mr. Marble's personal check for the rest." The judge said, "That won't work, this is a cash deal. If we can't have cash, it's not a sale." Wingfield who owned the banks came over and said, "I don't know you, Marble, but if you'll come across the street, I'll get the money and you can pay for it." (Laughter) Bill Wright never came back to the Tularcitos but stayed up there on that layout. They sold some of it, and made good on the deal. You and I were there as guests in 1953. In the meantime, Bill organized the Nevada Cattlemen's Association, ran for senator and for governor but was defeated in all of them. Finally after World War II, he had saved some money and said, "I want to buy a third interest in Mary's River." He borrowed money from Bob Marble, who was John's brother, to buy a third interest in Mary's River and in 1951 when these cattle prices were good he paid it off. He's dead now and his sons are running part of the ranch.

Anyhow, we were a guest of Bill Wright's as you'll remember, and he was a very gracious host. He told us to go up to Coyote Lakes and hunt. He sent a letter to his foreman telling him to take us deer hunting. Lee Ewing, the foreman, was a character because he had been in show business and was an expert shot with a rifle or pistol. He could lie down on his back and hit a target. We drove up to this Coyote Lakes Ranch early in the morning, there was snow on the ground. It was cold and somebody was running some horses in a corral and I walked out there and I said, "Are you Mr. Ewing?" "Yes." I said, "I have a letter here from Bill Wright." He said, "I don't need to read it." He said, "You fellows are here to hunt deer?" And I said, "Yes." He said, "Did you bring your chairs?" He meant saddles. "Yes we have them."

Trescony: (Laughter).

Albaugh: He looked over to Julius and he said, "Can you ride a snaffle bit horse?" If he had said it to me it might have worked but saying it to Julius was out of line. "Yes," he said, "I think I can ride one." (Laughter) "Well," he said, "I only have one horse that doesn't buck and I ride him myself!" (Laughter).



Trescony: God!

Albaugh: Well, we laughed and he threw a loop out there and caught a horse and gave it to Julius and caught a buckskin horse and gave it to me. I was interested in what he was going to catch for himself. He caught a big, black horse, remember that? He would have weighed fourteen hundred pounds. We put our saddles on and got our hunting gear together and he opened the gate and gave a big yell and waved to his wife and away we went, on the trot. And we trotted, and we trotted, and Julius turned around to me and said, "This is no way to hunt deer!" (Laughter) I said, "Remember you're a guest!" (Laughter) So finally we got up on this hill and this fellow Ewing turned around to me and said, "Get off of your horse." (Sternly) Just like that.

Trescony: Oh yes.

Albaugh: Ewing continued, "Tie the reins up in this ring in my saddle. Hunt out through the mahogany here." We went out through the brush and didn't see much. Finally, he rode up behind me and he said, "Get on your horse!" (Laughter) I got on my horse! (Laughter) We rode out in the open and looked up there and he said, "There's your buck." And there was a four-point buck standing up there broadside. He said, "Shoot it." I got off and shot and the deer ran away. (Laughter) He said, "What the hell's the matter with that gun?" I said, "I don't know." He said, "Shoot at that rock down there." I shot at the rock and hit the rock, of course. (Laughter) There was nothing wrong with the gun. We walked up there and looked around and there was a little blood. "Aw," he said, "there's so many deer in this country, we don't want to look for this one." So we started out again for another piece of the country on the trot! (Laughter) We got to two forks in the mountain and he said, "We split up here. One of you fellows come with me and one of you go around this way." I said, "Julius, which way do you want to go?" He said, "I want to go with Lee." I said, "Fine." So he and Lee went one way and I went another way. Well they hadn't gone very far until I heard a couple of shots and I thought (laughter) well, we got a deer because Julius doesn't miss them. Soon right up on top of the mountain, I saw this big, black horse, a mountain horse. Ewing yelled down to me, "Did you see a buck come through here?" And I said, "No." He said, "Well, your partner missed one. Haw, Haw, Haw!" (Laughter.)

Trescony: That deer was standing broadside and I missed it (laughter). In fact he was crouched up against a rock (laughter). God, I'll never forget that! To miss him broadside, hurt me more than anything else.

Albaugh: (Laughter.)



Trescony: God!

Albaugh: I'm not through with this story (laughter). At any rate, we didn't go more than two hundred yards and a big buck jumped up. I remember what Julius told me many years ago, he said, "Shoot until they drop! Just keep shooting." I jumped off my horse and I shot four shots at this deer and he dropped all right (laughter) and I hit him twice or three times out of the four and before I could get my horse organized and get up to where the deer was here was Lee Ewing on this big, black horse. He said, "How'd you do son? How'd you do? I think I heard a bullet hit!" I said, "Well, I killed a forked horn. He's right up there." We walked up there and it was an eight pointer and he said, "Hell, you killed the biggest deer in the woods!" (Laughter) And he got off his horse and pulled his chaps off and about that time you got there on this rough horse you were riding (laughter) and I got off of my horse and I said, "Can I help you?" He said, "Don't touch the deer. Don't touch it," he said, "you might learn something." (Laughter) And we didn't touch it.

Trescony: He was a big, rough guy. (Laughter) Gee.

Albaugh: He gutted this deer out and he looked up on my saddle and he said, "Is that rope any good?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Well, I didn't know whether it was or not. It's from California!" I gave him the rope and he put it on the deer and dragged it down and tied it up in a tree and we went to camp. It was getting dark. We got down there and his wife had supper for us and everything and he told us about his show business, remember that evening? Very entertaining.

Trescony: What a character.

Albaugh: The next morning we got a mule and went up to get the deer and do some more hunting. He showed us how to load this deer with out any help. He loaded the deer and tied it on and we started for home on the trot, again. And I said, "Lee, that deer's going to fall off, you don't need to trot." He said, "It's not going to fall off." And he trotted faster. I said, "God damnit to hell Lee, don't trot, I don't want to break those horns, it's going to fall off." He said, "It won't fall off." I said, "What's going to hold it on?" "Gravity, son, gravity!" And away he went to town (laughter).

And during this day when we were hunting Julius turned to me and he said, "Rube, this is the roughest horse I ever rode." And I said, "Are you complaining again?" And he said, "No, I'm not complaining," but he said, "you always considered yourself an authority on horses, and I wanted you to look at a rough horse!" (laughter).



Albaugh: Remember the night, Julius, we were out to that sheep camp at the Mitchell home ranch and you slept on the floor?

Trescony: Yes (laughter). And Frank Etcheberria was in a double bed?

Albaugh: And he didn't invite you to share the double bed and you slept on the floor with no air mattress.

Trescony: In my sleeping bag.

Albaugh: But with no mattress.

Trescony: No mattress.

Albaugh: During the evening the ranch manager said, "I want to call Nick Giacoia and tell him about the conditions here but I don't want anybody else to know what I said." He said, "If I speak in English or Spanish they'll know but if I speak in French they wouldn't." Julius said, "Phone him." And Julius talked to him in French (laughter).

Trescony: Rube, I wish you'd say something about this pigeon shoot that we had up in that Hesperia country.

Albaugh: Yes. A good many years ago, you phoned me to come down and said, "The bluebirds are flying." I stayed over night and we left your place early in the morning and went down into the Hesperia country. The birds were flying and you took your two good hunting dogs along and we went up on a ridge there and got about fifty yards apart and you said, "You take this old dog and he'll retrieve your birds and I'll take the young one." So we sat there, I poured some shells out on the ground and the pigeons were flying, of course. They were going out early that morning to feed and we got the limit in no time. Each one of those dogs picked those birds up and brought them right back and put them down at our feet and I thought that was one of the greatest shoots that I can ever remember. Another great shoot that we had was shooting pheasants out on Lee Browning's place in Yolo County. Mrs. Dougherty was our host that day and we hunted with a man by the name of Captain Blackmore.

Trescony: Blackmore.

Albaugh: Blackmore, who had two German pointer dogs and Mrs. Dougherty said, "You people are allowed twenty-seven birds today. And here are the permits." She said, "You can use a rice field that's never been hunted." And I thought to myself if we kill seven that will be fine. We went down there, of course, and those two dogs were probably the best two hunting dogs that we had ever seen and



Albaugh: as you've often said they didn't make a mistake all day. Well, by about eleven o'clock we had our twenty-seven birds. That's how thick they were and I think the first seven birds that got up you didn't miss a shot, which was tremendous. She said, "We need three more birds." So we finally got thirty birds that day and I don't imagine that that feat has ever been duplicated. It was something shooting over those good dogs.

Champions I've Met

Trescony: I had the experience of meeting Reuben's father and mother, in fact, all the family. And I was especially impressed with his father and mother and especially his father. A man who had come out West and saw a lot of hardship, had to work hard. He impressed me as a man with a lot of philosophy. I said to him in the course of a conversation, "How did you get along when you first came out here? You didn't have this or you didn't have that?" And he said, "Well, I'll tell you, young man, remember this, you don't have to know much to get by providing you know how to use what you know." And that struck me as a bit of good philosophy. Rube introduced me to all his family. He has a big family in that part of the country. The people are very hospitable. I can say that about the northern people. We enjoyed our stay and we did some fishing while we were there and they had a wonderful orchard. A very, very old apple orchard, as I remember, and I don't believe I ever tasted apples any better than I did there. Very wonderful apples, yes.

Albaugh: Another thing, Julius, you met Roderick McArthur.

Trescony: Oh yes.

Albaugh: He had married my oldest sister. And remember when he took us to White Horse that time?

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: He was planning on selling White Horse to the Fish and Game for a refuge. He had two of the officials there and he wanted us to go up there with him that night and we did.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: He cooked supper and then we played poker until about four o'clock in the morning and he was up and had breakfast for us. We went



Albaugh: out in the lavas and hunted all that day and when he would get through with one story I would remind him of another and he entertained us all day.

Trescony: All day, yes.

Albaugh: And I heard you say he was the greatest singlehanded conversationist that you ever met.

Trescony: I believe it. I really believe it. Quite a character!

Albaugh: In 1919 my dad met B. H. Crocheron who was director of Extension on a Farm Bureau traveling conference. He admired him greatly and many years later B. H. Crocheron and Earl Coke--who was at that time specialist in agronomy--were touring the state and they went by the home ranch and my dad was irrigating along the fence and they stopped to talk to him. During the conversation, my dad said to Professor Crocheron, "How's my son getting along in Salinas?" And B. H. said, "Oh, he's doing fine." And my dad said, "Well, why don't you fire him?" And he said, "Well, why would we fire him?" He said, "Well, if he stays there a few years longer, he'll be just like the rest of you fellows, no damn good!"

The first time that I remember seeing Earl Coke was about 1924 and he was on the Albaugh ranch. I didn't meet him at the time but at noontime, I said to my dad, "Who was that young fellow out there talking to you this morning?" And he said, "Well, that's the new farm advisor." He said, "He's a go getter, that fellow's going to be a good man." At that time Earl was an itinerant farm advisor and later he was appointed assistant farm advisor in San Luis Obispo County. He was there when I arrived in Monterey County. We became close friends. Earl helped me very much in getting started in some of the projects I undertook. He was a great help to me. When he became agronomy specialist, we used him quite a bit from the standpoint of a specialist. I remember one time I had him come to the county because the El Sur Ranch was going to develop some permanent irrigated pasture on land that they had been growing artichokes on. Harry Hunt was the owner and we met him down there and went over this piece of land and made recommendations on how it should be irrigated and the type of grasses that should be seeded and so forth and at lunchtime, we went up to Harry's ranch cabin for lunch. He had a cook there and they had a very nice lunch for us. Before lunch Harry asked us if we wanted a drink and we said yes that would be all right. So he mixed us a drink. And I noticed that Earl only drank about half of his and when we left and were coming back to Salinas that day, Earl said to me, "Rube, you know this is the first whiskey I ever drank." I asked Earl if he remembered that at one of his parties they had for him last winter. He said, "Yes he remembered it very well." But since then he said, "He had drunk a few more glasses of whiskey."



Riding and Roping

Albaugh:

One of the things that I did while I was here was to organize a roping club. This was an organization that was in Salinas and we met on L. W. Landon's ranch. He was a relative of Mr. Landon who ran for president. We bought about ten Mexican steers from Shorty Williamson and paid him a hundred dollars a head for them. We had ten members--and each one put up a hundred dollars. We fed them lettuce through the summer and we roped them every Sunday. Those steers in spite of that roping and eating only lettuce gained a half a pound a day. I wrote the bylaws on this project and we had a lot of fun and pleasure out of this roping club. I think it was probably the only roping club that was ever organized by an Extension man.

Another thing I'd like to point out about roping. We hadn't been in Monterey County probably two or three years and the sheriff's posse held a barbecue and a jackpot roping in Alisal. My wife and I were invited to attend it. Dr. Leach at that time was mayor of Salinas. He was also my dentist and I knew him quite well. He asked me if I would help him sign these ropers up for this jackpot roping and I told him, "Yes, I'd be glad to and take the money" which we did. We got them all signed up. I signed my name on the list and threw two and a half in the pot and Dr. Leach said, "Are you going to rope?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Well, you don't have a saddle or a horse." And I said, "No, I don't but I see one down there I can borrow." He said, "All right." So I walked down in the arena and Ray Hackworth was there and I said, "Ray, may I borrow your horse and saddle and rope?" And he said, "Sure you can borrow them." So I got the horse and rope and the man who was announcing was Ray Baugh who was the judge in Monterey. He was a very clever guy and a good story teller and I knew him quite well because he belonged to the Elks Lodge. When my turn came to rope this steer, he said, "This next event should be good," he said, "it's Rube Albaugh and he learned to rope from a book!" Well, this steer was a big red, wide-horned animal and I caught him and stopped him in seven seconds. And won first money. And Ray Baugh said, "I'd sure like to get a hold of that book that Rube's been reading." Then after this happened, two of the other ropers came over to me and said, "We'd like to team up with you, we're going to have some team roping this afternoon." And I said, "Fine. I'll do the heeling." They said, "Okay." And we won two seconds that afternoon. Of course, this got all over the valley. It was in the newspaper "Albaugh Wins at the Sheriff's Posse" and it gave me more of an "in" on these ranches because here's a guy who's got some practical experience which they liked.



Dickman: When you said you'd do the heeling, what do you mean?

Albaugh: Catch the hind feet.

### A Shivaree

Trescony: Rube, let me remind you. I wasn't there but you told me several times and I was always interested about the shivaree that they gave Bill Casey in Long Valley. Will you tell us about that?

Albaugh: Yes. That was quite a gala affair. Kenneth Eade organized it and we met in the loft of Bunte's store. Everyone came from everywhere, brought food and we danced. Bert Sooy came down from the city to attend because he was a great friend of the Eades, the Caseys and all the other people in that area. About twelve o'clock the orchestra made a loud noise on the drums and everybody listened. Kenneth Eade got up on the platform and introduced Bert Sooy. Bert gave a talk and this is what he said, "Bill Casey's a man and anybody that can be a man in Long Valley is a man the world around!" That was quite a statement and after we toasted him, we went down to Hank's saloon, you know Hank was a great whisky dispenser, because everytime a person bought a drink, he bought one. There was Tom Thwait's, Kenneth Eade, Ade Ansberry, Bert Sooy, and probably some more of us went down to the saloon. As we walked in George Mee and Wes Eade were sitting at the other end of the counter and they had been there several hours. They came over and in a very gentlemanly way shook hands and talked about the party and started ordering drinks. Hank Madsen was busy doing something else so Bert Sooy went back of the counter and he was the bartender and he didn't bother to use glasses, he just took little half-pint Quaker Whisky bottles and served us. As we started to drink a couple of guys got in a fight. They were really fighting. They knocked a table down and one thing and another and finally one of them fell right down by Wes Eade and the guy started to beat him up and old Wes just set his whisky down and grabbed that guy and threw him clear back into Hank's office-- and he just tore that partition right out. Wes said, "You guys pick up your stuff and get out of here." He said, "You've been bothering us all day, I want you to leave!" Both of them picked up their stuff which included some pipes and combs and one thing and another. Both of them came over and shook hands with Wes Eade and left! That showed what a great guy Wes Eade was. Nobody ever crowded him twice, they used to say when he was a young man. At that time he was about sixty years old. That was the end of Bill Casey's shivaree. Probably one of the last old barroom fights that were staged in this county.



Trescony: Cowboy Hall of Fame--Wes Eade

Albaugh: Through the efforts of Don Smith, farm advisor of Tehama County, we got Wes Eade into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. In doing that we held a big memorial in King City for Wes. I was chosen to give this memorial, which I did. Fred Dressler was there from Nevada. He was president of the American Cattlemen's Association at that time. Nelson Crow, Johnny Baumgartner, and the president of the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association were also there. During this memorial I made the statement that because of some of Wes Eade's philosophy I suspected that he might be a Republican. After the meeting, Jerry Keefer and another fellow who were in their cups came up to me and said, "We're pretty sore at you, why did you have to give a dig to the Democrats." And I said, "Well, what do you mean?" And he said, "Why, you said, Wes Eade might have been a Republican." I said, "That's right, what do you want to do about it?" They said, "Well, we don't like it." I said, "I want to tell you something, Jerry, before I gave this speech, Kenneth Eade okayed it, let's go down and talk to Kenneth." They scattered like quail (laughter). And later Jerry apologized to me for that many times, Julius, for saying that.

Albaugh: Yes, I wrote down that there was a bucking horse contest between Patsy Knight and Candy Tibbs. Every body he could ride any horse on the circuit the judge says the winning way. The second story was the race

Backtrailing

Trescony: I've been asked to tell about the experiences I had as one of the directors of the Salinas Valley Fair. During that time we held calf scrambles and greased pig scrambles. Money was solicited from people in the area without trouble at all. Nobody turned me down. I got all the money I wanted, even for consolation prizes. The little girls came to me and wanted to enter in the pig scramble and I said, "No," I said, "you little girls can't do that, it isn't nice, girls are supposed to be more feminine, boys are rough, but I'll think up something." And I did. And I initiated a lamb scramble. And here's the way it worked. There were twenty contestants and ten lambs sheared and small so the girls could handle them. Each girl was given a number. On the lamb we hung a cord with a bell and in this bell was a number. To qualify, the girl had to catch a lamb whose number she had. That way it created quite an event and everybody enjoyed it and it was fine for little girls. It worked out nicely and if I do say so, I do believe that this is the only place that I know of where we had a lamb scramble for girls.

Trescony: How about the "Livestock Man of the Year"--aren't you on that committee?



Trescony: Reuben, do you remember the time we met Jack Dempsey the prize fighter?

Albaugh: I remember it well. You called me on the phone and said, "The black Catholics are having a boxing match to raise money for the church. Jack Dempsey is the referee. I have a ticket for you--come on down. You can probably find some Catholics around Salinas who are going to attend this exhibition, you can catch a ride with them."

I called Pete Wallace and he gave me a ride. I met you at the old Camino Real Hotel. We visited a few minutes, then Jack Dempsey came down the steps, walked over to the counter and bought a cigar. We went over to the pavillion where the boxing match was to take place and when we got there, Dempsey and his wife's seats were near ours. You introduced yourself and then me; we shook hands with this great prize fighter of all times. He was very friendly. When he climbed into the ring he gave a little speech, reached down and picked up his wife, lifting her into the ring and introduced her. He impressed me very much, and I know he did you too, Julius.

Trescony: Rube, you wrote some imaginary stories while you were farm advisor. One was about Dempsey.

Albaugh: Yes, I wrote three. One was a bucking horse contest between Perry Ivory, Jesse Stahl, Pete Knight and Casey Tibbs. Ivory got the nod. In his heyday he could ride any horse on the circuit the judge's way--the winning way. The second story was the race between Man of War, Sea Biscuit and Whirlaway. Man of War, the greatest male animal that ever lived, won this race. He not only had great speed, but could carry weight. He sired winners of the triple crown kind. The third was an imaginary fight between Lewis and Dempsey. Jack won in the sixth round.

Trescony: How about the whiskey-dice story?

Albaugh: Many years ago, Horace Strong, Paul Pattengale, farm advisor in San Benito County, and I were out on the firing line making preparations for a cattle field day on the Walter Rosenberg ranch. We had dinner in King City and before we ate, we went to the Wagon Wheel to have a drink. In order to see who was going to pay for the drinks, we shook dice. The game we played was the 13th ace.

Horace became so excited with this dice playing that instead of putting them back in the dice cup, he put them in his whiskey glass (laughter)!

Trescony: How about the "Livestock Man of the Year"--aren't you on that committee?



- Albaugh: For the past four years I have represented the University of California on this important committee. You won this honor, Julius, in 1970. As you know this award, established in 1950, is sponsored by the Agricultural Department of the California State Chamber of Commerce and is presented during the Grand National Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace. Henry Schacht is the chairman of this committee.
- Trescony: You and I supported Gene Rambo for this honor, but he failed to be chosen. I still think Gene belongs in that coveted corral.
- Trescony: Rube, you are a member of the Elks Lodge?
- Albaugh: Yes, I joined this organization in 1943. At that time most of the influential people of Salinas were members of this lodge. They ran the rodeo and most of the important projects in that city.
- Trescony: I have thoroughly enjoyed being a member of this group. I have met many people in all walks of life, played cards and went to dances. When I came to Davis I transferred to the Woodland Lodge. This organization probably does more charitable work than any group I know of.
- Trescony: Do you remember when you and I had our first meeting here at the ranch?
- Albaugh: I do, Julius, I remember it very well. I was on my way to San Luis Obispo to a meeting with Tom Mayhew who was your first farm advisor in this county.
- Trescony: Correct.
- Albaugh: But by that time he had been promoted and was regional director working out of Berkeley. On our way down, he said, "Let's go to the Trescony Ranch, I want you to meet Julius." So we did and we met you down at the Cook Ranch. You were working on a windmill, right?
- Trescony: That's right.
- Albaugh: You had on one of these little overall jumpers.
- Trescony: Yes.
- Albaugh: We visited a while there and finally left to go on and as we pulled away Tom Mayhew said to me, "I want you to get well acquainted with Julius Trescony because he has a student's mind." I met your father the next time I was here at the ranch. I remember a very distinguished looking gentleman with a white moustache, wearing a light



Albaugh: suit. I think he was getting ready to go to Salinas. The next time I came here I remember one of your sons crawling on the floor.

Trescony: Yes.

Albaugh: At that time I met your wife.

Trescony: Marie.

Albaugh: Marie was so neat, trim and proud. She could speak Spanish fluently and had probably the best vocabulary of any person I ever met. Of course, this impressed me a great deal.

Trescony: She was my inspiration.

Albaugh: Yes. This meeting we talked about was in August 1927, Julius, almost fifty years ago.

Trescony: Think of that.

Albaugh: Yes.

Trescony: In addition to the many, many programs that Reuben initiated in this county, being a very personable man himself, he was very sociable and I think that helped him in getting many of these programs adapted--his personality. And I must not forget that you started the folk dancing program. Rube spent a lot of time on his own at night meeting at different places. It was explained and we learned how to folk dance, which was new at the time. In Salinas, especially, where he lived they had a folk dancing program--a big one--and I believe for several years they won the prize in folk dancing against many other parts of the country. And Rube is entitled to that too. So let's give him credit for at least giving us a lot of pleasure.

Albaugh: Yes. This folk dancing came in right after or during the war, and I wasn't a very good dancer, Julius, my wife is the one who was the dancer and she not only was good at it but she taught it for at least fifteen years. Also square dancing. But my first introduction to this was in Salinas. Do you remember Ace Smith?

Trescony: I remember him.

Albaugh: He was our teacher, he and his wife, Marge, were excellent teachers.

Trescony: We organized what they called the Lariat Swingers and we met every Saturday night and learned these dances and so forth and then my wife started teaching folk dancing at Spreckels. But the thing that I got the most kick out of was the time, you remember, when four couples of us toured the county and at farm center meetings

Albaugh: my career. One of the many surprises was that my father, mother,



Albaugh: we'd put on what we called a one night stand. We'd put on some demonstrations and then teach people how to do the steps.

Trescony: Yes, that's right.

Albaugh: This particular program started dancing in many areas. Many people, I don't know whether they're still dancing or not, but did dance at the time and it was funny, people would say, "Well, if Rube can learn this, I can." And they would get out and try it and they had a lot of fun. When we moved to Davis, Vira taught dancing there and we got another club started in Davis. So square and folk dancing was quite a pleasure.

Dickman: How about costumes?

Albaugh: Yes, we had costumes. The women made the costumes. They had very lovely dresses and we--the Lariat Swingers had their own uniform.

Dickman: Who did the calling?

Albaugh: Ace Smith did the calling. My wife called and oh, I've forgotten who else around here called. Babe Russell was a caller.

I'd like to say this about Julius Trescony. In addition to being a very close personal friend, he has been a great influence in my life from the simple reason that he is always optimistic. Everything is going to be all right and he didn't want anyone around him who was complaining. Anyone can complain and he also said, "Anybody can start a project but it takes a good man to finish it. It's easy to quit. When things get tough that's the time to hang on because the others are going to quit." And this was a great philosophy.

Trescony: Rube, we've had so many wonderful experiences and we now can enjoy them again just by talking about them.

Albaugh: Some of the most enjoyable times Vira and I spent in Monterey County were attending your 80th and 85th birthday parties. These were happy, convivial events. The attitude adjustment sessions, the good food, plus the friendly, influential people kept these parties in the top-cabin bracket. You are widely known as the "epitome of hospitality!"

Trescony: Reuben, we've touched on many subjects. But there's one item I think we forgot, and that is your going-away party. I wish you'd tell us about it.

Albaugh: That send-off was a very fine event and one of the highlights of my career. One of the many surprises was that my father, mother,



Albaugh: two sisters and their husbands were invited and, of course, we didn't know they were coming until we met them in King City. We were delighted, and my dad and mother appreciated it very much.

Julius, you were on the committee planning this party together with Walter Markham, Ace Smith and Rollin Reeves, who was master of ceremonies. Bradford Knapp from Miles City, Montana; Nelson Crow from the Western Livestock Journal; and Earl Coke, Director of Extension, were present. They all gave talks. I was given two guns--an automatic shotgun and an automatic rifle. Vira was given a check to furnish our new house when we arrived in Davis. Two nights later we were robbed and that money was taken, so we didn't get to use it.

Ace Smith, the folk dance teacher, lead some folk dances that night. They put on some squares and all the people who had cooperated with me on many programs were in the squares. I don't suppose that ever happened anywhere else in the country.

We had a lot of fun. I think Shorty Williamson summed it up when he said, "I have never seen so many people feel so sad about someone doing so good."

As you've often said, Julius, I came down here not knowing anything and left well-trained by the people of Monterey County who were very tolerant, generous and cooperative. They made me look good in spite of myself!

Julius, you have had a great influence on my life. I have always admired your optimism, dedicated faith, generosity and friendliness. You often said, "Anybody can complain, but it takes a good man to meet and cope with the problems of life without being a burden on others." Julius, your million-dollar sayings have no equal. For example, "God gave us memories so we will have roses in December."

"If that's the case, how would you like to become a livestock specialist?"

"What's wrong with R. G. Johnson? He's a good man and, in fact, I highly recommend him for that position."

Ellis: Was Johnson in Extension at that time?

Albaugh: R. G. was a county agent in Oregon. He was a classmate of mine in Oregon, and a cousin to Bob Johnson, cattleman in Fresno County.



Ellis: What was their reaction to your recommendation?

Albaugh: "You're a better man than Johnson." They said, "I'd like for you to accept this livestock job. You have more experience, when I took the directorship for Extension, I carried a great deal of responsibility for the people of this state, and I'm glad to have you help us carry out this obligation."

### III IN THE EXTENSION ANIMAL SCIENCE SADDLE

"Just as soon as you can make the arrangements."

Ellis: Reuben, when were you first contacted about going to UC Davis as a livestock specialist?

Albaugh: Ken, I was working cattle at the Walter Markham Ranch in Gonzales. We were sorting cows to start a progeny test to evaluate two herd bulls. Tom Mayhew, Assistant State Director, phoned and said, "Can you be in Berkeley tomorrow morning? Director Coke would like to talk to you about some changes in animal science." I replied, "Yes, I'll come."

Ellis: What  
Albaugh: The next morning I walked into Director Coke's office; Tom Mayhew and John McElroy were also there. As I walked in, I said, "Earl, this is the second time I've ever been in this office."

Ellis: "That's interesting," he replied, "when was the first time?"  
Albaugh: I told him, "Years ago, B. H. Crocheron called me and wanted me to take over Lake County, which I turned down, because I was an animal husbandman and didn't want to fool with fruit. I told B. H. that it was the first time I had been in his office . . . and he replied, 'Well, whose fault is that?'" (laughter).

Ellis: After a short visit Coke said, "Rube, I have two jobs that I want to offer you. One of them is to take over Tulalake--that's a separate entity and we need a good man to run that program." I replied, "I'm sorry, Earl, but I'm not interested in that assignment. I'd rather continue with my livestock program."

Ellis: "If that's the case, how would you like to become a livestock specialist?"

Albaugh: "What's wrong with R. G. Johnson? He's a good man and, in fact, I highly recommend him for that position."

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Ellis: What was their reaction to your recommendation?

Albaugh: "You're a better man than Johnson," Coke said. "I'd like for you to accept this livestock job. You know, Rube, when I took the directorship for Extension, I assumed a lot of responsibility for the people of this state, and I'd like to have you help me carry out this obligation."

Albaugh: "When do you want me to go to work, Earl?"

"Just as soon as you can make the arrangements."

I then went to visit Horace Strong who was already a livestock specialist with headquarters at Berkeley. Within a month I was in my new specialist "saddle" which I have enjoyed for over a quarter of a century.

#### First Assignments

Ellis: What was your first assignment as a specialist?

Albaugh: My first assignment was to help with an economic study on several different crops in the San Joaquin Valley. We met at Modesto.

Ellis: What was the date?

Albaugh: It was during the early part of December 1949. Wayne Weeks, sugar beet specialist, and others, including Chet [Chester O. Jr.] McCorkle who is now Vice President of the University, were also in attendance. In riding back to Davis, Chet and I became well acquainted.

Ellis: Did he impress you at that time?

Albaugh: He impressed me very much, especially with his outgoing personality and his knowledge of economics.

Ellis: When did you move to Davis?

Albaugh: It was after the economic workshop in Modesto that I moved up to Davis. Vira stayed in Salinas, however, because Glen was attending Hartnell Junior College and we wanted him to finish his studies there. Upon my arrival in Davis John McElroy, Extension program chairman, suggested that we hold meetings with farm advisors in order for me to get acquainted with them and determine their needs.



Albaugh: "You're going to be assigned to Northern California," he said, "involving twenty-six counties, and Horace Strong will be responsible for Southern California."

Ellis: So, at that time you divided the state geographically rather than by subject matter?

Albaugh: Yes--and they did it for us; we didn't have anything to say about it, Ken. According to McElroy, the reason for this division was because I was familiar with the Northern California livestock industry which was composed of mainly cow-calf operators; that Horace was more conversant with the feeding industry which was largely in the southern part of the state.

Ellis: Now, getting back to those meetings with farm advisors, Rube. Were they held?

Albaugh: Yes. McElroy organized those regional training meetings and he emphasized to me that I should prepare an excellent presentation for those events. The subject I chose was "Crossbreeding of Beef Cattle." I had recently returned from Miles City, Montana, where I had gathered data on their research program. I had already given some talks in Monterey on this subject and had prepared charts which I used at the farm advisor gatherings. The fact that McElroy organized and acted as chairman of these sessions was a great help to me.

Ellis: Crossbreeding of beef cattle was quite a controversial subject then, wasn't it?

Albaugh: Right. Any discussion on crossbreeding during the early '50s was a dirty word and considered way out in left field as far as animal breeding was concerned. Some of our farm advisors were also opposed to crossbreeding. Anyway, Ken, these regional meetings were very successful and they gave me an opportunity to become acquainted with the county staff and to exhibit my expertise in this new field of animal breeding.

Ellis: Were these regional meetings also held in Southern California?

Albaugh: Yes--Horace Strong organized similar meetings in his area. I also attended them and gave the same talk on crossbreeding, plus some ideas on program planning.

At one of these meetings, a young farm advisor from Orange County was having difficulty making contact with his cattlemen. He asked, "Is it necessary to dress in western attire in order to impress these producers of 'chops and roasts'?" My answer was, "If you can back up your western clothes, wear them; if not, keep them off!"



Albaugh: Ken, this was a philosophy I always employed with farm advisors who were not comfortable in meeting their livestock clientele.

Ellis: In other words, Rube, boots and a hat as commonly worn do not necessarily indicate you have practical experience in handling cattle and horses. What other subjects did you present at that first series of farm advisor meetings?

Albaugh: In addition to discussing the writing of bulletins, I presented the idea of preparing a "Roundup of Livestock Facts," a monthly newsletter that contained results of research work conducted throughout the world. It also included county notes, describing farm advisors' activities in developing and disseminating information. This proved to be a very helpful vehicle, assisting farm advisors not only with their everyday operations but it gave them suggestions on conducting county research work.

Ellis: Was there any kind of a vehicle to communicate with farm advisors and the industry up to that point?

Albaugh: The only other newsletter that had been developed up to this time, to my knowledge, was the one prepared by the dairy specialists which contained results of the cow testing program. That newsletter was started by Eddie Gordon. The real "newsletter program" was pioneered by the meat animal scientists.

Ellis: How'd you get the idea for the "Roundup"?

Albaugh: As a farm advisor, I felt I needed more written material analyzing research work as prepared by a specialist. This is where I got the idea of writing the "Roundup"--to fulfill the need I felt as a farm advisor.

The first "Roundup" was published in January 1950. Most of the information in this issue was taken from work I conducted in Monterey County; i.e., finishing cattle on sugar beets, breeding yearling heifers, finishing cattle on irrigated pasture, etc. The January 1951 issue of this newsletter contained an index of all the articles that had appeared the year previous. We continued indexing this publication annually.

Ellis: I know--as a farm advisor I referred to this index as reference material. Now, Rube, upon completing these farm advisor training meetings, what was your next big assignment as a specialist?

Albaugh: My next big assignment was to fulfill the farm advisors' request, "Rube, the first assignment we want you to do is write a bulletin on equipment for handling beef cattle." Working with Clarence F. Kelly, UC Agricultural Engineer, we prepared this bulletin which



Albaugh: proved to be a very popular manuscript. Over 3,000 copies of this publication were sold to other states. It has been revised three times. It was after Kelly became Director of the UC Experiment Station that he assisted in revising the third edition of this publication. This is probably the only manuscript in existence where an Extension specialist and a Director of the Experiment Station collaborated in preparing such a publication.

Ellis: When you were ready to move to Davis, what were some of your thoughts?

Albaugh: Ken, as I mentioned before, I did not solicit this specialist job because I was quite content with my program in Monterey County. As you know, when taking on any new assignment one has mixed emotions, but I had only been on the job a few weeks when I realized I had made the right decision. This position gave me an opportunity to spread my knowledge of the livestock business over a wider area than I could as a county farm advisor. Then, too, I enjoyed being surrounded by a fine group of scientists at Davis, and working with a well trained, highly-devoted group of farm advisors.

#### California Cattlemen's Association

Ellis: Rube, as soon as you became a specialist, you started working quite closely with the California Cattlemen's Association--how did this collaboration take place?

Albaugh: Shortly after arriving on the job, I attended the Cow Palace where I met Ed Dick, Secretary of the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA). After congratulating me on my new assignment, Ed stated, "Rube, we're going to have to get together and work out a cooperative program of disseminating information to cattlemen."

I replied, "We surely do. Do you suppose we could meet with the directors of CCA in December and outline some plans on how this should be done?" He agreed.

To back up a little, Ken, my last day in Monterey County I attended a meeting with Irving Armstrong who was a very influential cattleman, not only in Monterey but also in the state association. As I got out of his car, Irving said, "If I can ever help you, Rube, I want to do that."

I said, "Irving, you can help me. This is what I want you to do: encourage county cattlemen's associations to hold educational meetings like we have conducted."



Albaugh: "You mean like our annual meeting where you discussed cross-breeding?"

"Yes," I replied, "and I'd like to have you help me do that."

"I'll do it!"

Anyway, Ken, Horace and I attended the CCA director's meeting in December and presented our idea on how we could work together in developing and disseminating information to the cattle industry. Horace talked about the advantages of such a program and I discussed the benefits it would have to the University of California. The directors discussed it back and forth. One director was violently opposed to the program, stating he did not think CCA would want to become associated with the farm advisors because the one in his county was not doing the job. However, it turned out it was the agricultural commissioner's representative rather than the farm advisor that he was criticizing.

Irving Armstrong and John Baumgartner both supported our idea of cooperation. (Irving came through on his promise made my last day in Monterey.) This was followed by a motion by Fred Bixby that this program be instituted. (Bixby, a successful cattleman, had much influence in California, having been a former president of CCA, and he had presented a quarter of a million dollars to the University's "Bixby" program which provided practical experience to city boys majoring in agriculture.) Bixby went on to say, "I didn't like B. H. Crocheron as an Extension Director, but this young man Coke is okay. Let's go along with this program."

It passed, and these educational field meetings were conducted for a period of seventeen years, with much success.

Ellis: In other words, you formulated a program in Monterey County that you felt, as a specialist, you could carry on and extend it statewide. Is that right?

Albaugh: I guess I did.

Ellis: Rube, did you continue working closely with the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA)?

Albaugh: During my fifty years of Extension work, I have had the honor and privilege of working with all the presidents and secretaries of the CCA. I have a deep personal interest in this organization, not only because my father and brother were directors of this group, but also the leaders of this organization were always kind, tolerant, generous and helpful to me.



Albaugh: During J. Edgar Dick's reign as secretary of CCA, he worked very closely with Extension on research projects and in disseminating information through field meetings. Ed Dick used to say, "Cattlemen of Northern California may not be the top producers but they are the best informed cattlemen in the state on scientific practices." Another of Ed's sayings was, "Experience is a harsh teacher but it's thorough."

Albaugh: Under Bill Staiger's direction, CCA has grown rapidly and [the organization] is truly the spokesman for the industry.

You know, Ken, one of my great ambitions when I became a livestock specialist was to appear on their annual program.

Ellis: You mean the cattlemen's association annual meeting?

Albaugh: Yes, and through the courtesy of Ed Dick, CCA secretary, Presidents John Baumgartner, Bob Johnson and John Weber, I was invited to participate in three of their annual programs. The first speech I gave was on finishing beef cattle the second one on marketing and the third on my trip to Australia.

Traveling with the officers of that association on their annual tours was also an excellent opportunity to become well acquainted and to share each other's philosophies concerning the cattle business. It is hoped that some of our present livestock specialists will have the honor and privilege of appearing on the annual program of the cattlemen's association. Then, too, I hope they will have the enjoyment of traveling with the officers of that organization on many of their annual field tours. Ken, we need to be on that team!

Ellis: I agree! And we're working on that.

#### The Renowned Red Bluff Bull Sale

Ellis: When was your first involvement with the Red Bluff Bull Sale?

Albaugh: My involvement started two months after I became a specialist, (the Red Bluff Bull Sale was held in February) Don Smith, farm advisor and manager of the bull sale, immediately asked me to attend. He said, "I have three good graders this year: Vard Shepard (of Cal Poly), Lou Rochford (Tejon Cattle Company, Bakersfield), and George Hunt (prominent cattleman of Millville)." Don went on to say, "Rochford can't make it the first day, so I want you to grade that day." So I did and thought we got along quite well.

On the second day Don stated, "This is the first year that Shorthorn cattle have been consigned, and I want you to give a talk



Albaugh: on the importance of Shorthorns in a crossbreeding program." This I did; and it was a tough assignment but was favorably received. The following year Don asked me to be chairman of the grading committee, which I did . . . for fourteen years.

Ellis: Sounds as though you made a hit with them, Rube?

Albaugh: I guess I did. Don had a lot of confidence in my ability to grade cattle. However, what really impressed me about the Red Bluff Bull Sale was the committee that ramrodded this event: Charley Stover, chairman; Roy Owens, Charley Luther, Sam Ayres and Sid Watson. These gentlemen were all very successful cowmen and extremely generous and helpful to me. Roy Owens kept telling me, "Rube, don't let any bull go through this ring that is going to hurt some breeder." That was his great concern because the auction was noted as a buyer's sale.

During those fourteen years, Don Smith had many different kinds of graders--some good and some bad. Don was a smart promoter. He'd select influential people from other areas to participate. This would not only publicize the bull sale but would attract buyers.

Ellis: A little more about the unique Red Bluff Bull Sale--your part in that activity, Rube, influenced the beef cattle industry. What would you say was the greatest contribution that this sale made to the cattle industry?

Albaugh: Well, I'll tell you, Ken, I think we were way ahead of other people in selecting cattle because we based those grades on weight-per-day-of-age. In other words, we wanted big cattle at that time and if these cattle were large for their age, they must have been fast gainers. I think that was one of the big items that influenced the cattle business. As you remember, Don Smith and his committee advertised the big, rugged, Red Bluff Type and that's what they tried to get consigned.

Abner McKenzie, one of the sale directors, would always say, "Don't let those little cattle get through, Rube," (laughter) and we didn't--we tried not to anyhow.

Ellis: Rube, when you started at the Red Bluff Bull Sale, you said they were already grading the cattle--were they using the UC grading system?

Albaugh: Oh, yes. They started using the UC system at their very first sale in 1945. Stan Brown, farm advisor in Lassen County, graded the bulls that first year.

Ellis: Who developed the UC grading system that was used?



Eyeballing Cattle--UC System

Albaugh: It was developed by H. R. Guilbert [Department of Animal Science] here at UC Davis. It was a very fine evaluation system and was used in many states. It varied in some areas--some graders used numbers, some letters. We started out using 1's and 2's and then we changed to percentages 80's and 90's in order to analyze and calculate data. And presently, as you know, Ken, the Beef Improvement Federation system uses numbers from 10 to 17.

Ellis: We are still reluctant to change from the 80's and 90's as well as 1's and 2's, so the work you fellows did in educating people in the grading system is still hanging on.

Albaugh: Yes, I think maybe it was easier to understand, too.

Ellis: In the early days, the California grading system was not looked upon with much favor by all livestock people, is that right, Rube?

Albaugh: Right. A high percentage of the cowmen were of the opinion that accurate grading was not repeatable. In order to prove that bulls could be re-graded accurately, Don Smith promoted an event at the Tri County Cattlemen's meeting which was held on the Charley Stover Ranch in Chester; this was in the early '50s. There were about 600 in attendance.

We had thirty-five head of bulls available of various ages. Some of these animals had been on the range for three years. All of them had previously been graded and purchased at the Red Bluff Bull Sale.

Ellis: You were asked to re-grade these bulls?

Albaugh: Before the grading started I got on a horse, rode out and looked over the bulls. I knew that Charley Stover had not purchased any 1-minus bulls and, of course, no 3-pluses went through the ring. With this information we graded all the bulls individually and gave reasons for the placements. It so happened, Ken, I remembered two of the bulls and what I had graded them at Red Bluff. When they entered the arena, I announced my original grades and told them I was going to grade one of them differently today. This made a big hit with the audience. Very few bulls changed grade, and this event helped establish our grading system.



Professor H. R. Guilbert, UC at Davis, perfected the California beef cattle grading system. He reasoned if feeder and fat cattle could be graded, purebred cattle could be classified in a similar manner. Observing there was a difference of approximately 33% in the price paid for common feeders and that paid for fancy feeders, he developed the following grading guide whereby animals could be evaluated on conformation, quality, character and type.

#### GRADING GUIDE FOR BEEF CATTLE RECORDS OF PERFORMANCE

Grade			Market cattle	
Design- nation	Numerical* value		Feeders	Slaughter
		Breeding cattle		
1+	98-100	The top of the grade represents outstanding animals in strong competition. The middle and lower end of the grade represents excellent breeding animals from standpoint of type, conformation, quality, and character, capable of making a good showing in strong competition.	Strictly	Top
1	95-97		Fancy	Prime
1-	92-94		or Select	
2+	89-91	Cows in grade 2+, 2, 2- are good enough to retain for breeding test in purebred herds. This is a practical top for commercial cattle. The top of the grade (2+) represents the best of range bulls; the lower end, of herd bulls. Cattle in this grade are well down the line or out of the money in strong competition.	Choice	Prime
2	86-88			to
2-	83-85			Top Choice
3+	80-82	Cows should be culled from purebred and some commercial herds. Cows in this grade are usually the low end of commercial cattle. Bulls are rarely capable of making much improvement except on very plain cattle.	Good	Choice
3	77-79		to	to
3-	74-76		Medium	Good
4+	71-73	Plain, upstanding, thin-fleshed, slow-maturing cattle, lacking in quality and character, and having serious defects of conformation should be culled from commercial herds.	Medium	Standard
4	68-70		to	or Com-
4-	67		Common	mmercial to Utility

\*In order to unify the procedures for measuring and recording performance testing data throughout the U.S., the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) was formed in 1968. The following scale compares the BIF and UC grading systems.

UC	BIF	UC	BIF
95-100.....	17	86.....	12
92-94.....	16	85.....	11
90-91.....	15	84.....	10
89.....	14	83.....	9
87-88.....	13	82 & less...	8



In applying Guilbert's evaluation system, weight-per-day-of-age (WDA) was also considered. The following Score Card was developed to supplement the Grading Guide and illustrates the WDA guide.

#### BEEF CATTLE GRADING - SCORE CARD (Score for Animal Number)

Points of Conformation	Value	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
General type, appearance, and scale-weight for age*	1-10					8					
Thickness of body	1-10					8					
Depth of body	1-10					7					
Smoothness of body	1-5					4					
Natural fleshing	1-10					8					
Head	1-5					4					
Neck and shoulders	1-5					3					
Crops and ribs	1-5					3					
Loin and back	1-10					9					
Rump	1-10					9					
Round	1-10					8					
Legs and feet	1-10					10					
Total						81					

\*The following table is recommended for scoring weight-for-age on the score card.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Heifers and cows</u>	<u>Bulls</u>
180 days	390 lb	440 lb
210 days	440 lb	510 lb
240 days	480 lb	560 lb
15 months	730 lb	1,000 lb
25 months	1,000 lb	1,400 lb
30 months	1,030 lb	1,450 lb
6 years	1,220 lb	2,000 lb

The Score Card helps demonstrate how to grade animals and is useful for the beginner in arriving at the proper grade. Grading is not an exact science. Condition may influence the grade of an animal. For example, an overfat animal may be upgraded and an overly thin one downgraded. No instrument has yet been developed in which an animal can be placed and the exact grade recorded, but good judges of animals can readily learn to grade cattle.



Ellis: One of the first things that farm advisors learned under your leadership when they joined Extension was to learn to grade cattle. Would you say this was an important skill for them to acquire?

Albaugh: I think at that time it was the thing to do, Ken. Grading emphasized the importance of carefully sizing up the animal, particularly in structural soundness and conformation. This method of evaluation included bad legs and feet, femininity and masculinity characteristics as well as WDA (weight-per-day-of-age). I'm also certain, Ken, that grading helped much in correcting the compressed "showman's ideal" which was prevalent at that time.

Many farm advisors became experts at grading: Al Moore was one of the best; Sedge Nelson, Al Mitchell, Marion Stanley, Monte Bell, Ken Ellis, Jim Elings, John Dunbar, Bill Helphinstine, Roy Parker, Sam Thurber, Bill Mason, Lin Maxwell, Harold Thurber, Bob Miller, Paul "Pat" Pattengale. This skill made their jobs more interesting, increased their prestige and it gave them an opportunity to become acquainted with and be helpful to people who produced the seedstock of the country. Producers carrying on this type of performance program greatly appreciated the assistance given by farm advisors.

Ellis: I think it generally helped improve the beef cattle population and functionality, at least in those days, don't you?

Albaugh: Yes, I do.

#### The Role of a Specialist

Ellis: Rube, you traveled many miles as a specialist--at times throughout the state even though you were assigned to the northern region. What do you think the role of a specialist is--not only when you started but even today?

Albaugh: A specialist is a breed of his own. Not only must he have a full knowledge of the industry he represents, but he also has to be an excellent speaker and a prolific writer. His main job, in my opinion, is to train and motivate farm advisors. He has two things to sell--his name and original, practical ideas. He must have that rare and intangible ability to work closely with University research personnel in the various departments as well as all segments of the livestock industry.

There are three different types of Extension people, in my opinion. One is a drifter. He's got tenure, perhaps holds a meeting occasionally, has a pretty good personality, will make



Albaugh: friends with the county supervisor, and writes a good report. He spends a lot of time in his office and is not devoted to or excited about improving agriculture.

The second type is a novice. (I got this word from the horse people--a novice horse is still in the hackamore.) These individuals are formally well trained, probably do not have too much experience, but with the proper guidance and training make excellent Extension workers.

Number three is a pacesetter--the anchor man! He gets the job done. He holds the umbrella over everybody else, and to him the day doesn't get too long. He's aggressive and optimistic and he's out on the firing line with new, original ideas and all those things that count. This ramrod is devoted and loyal.

Ellis: And that's the kind of people we need both at the specialist and county levels.

Albaugh: If we don't have them, God help us. That's right, because the key person in Extension is the man in the county, the man at the grass roots, the man on the firing line. He's the champion and if the specialist can make him look good, he's doing his job!

Just like I told Bob Miller yesterday. He came up and thanked me for going down Saturday to his horse meeting. He said, "You got me interested in that and I put it on and it was wonderful. You did a fine job."

I said, "Bob, if I can do something that helps the farm advisor, I'm just tickled to death about it." And that's what I think a specialist should do, Ken.

In order to carry out this assignment, you have to be optimistic, enthusiastic, tolerant, aggressive and a hard worker.

Ellis: You've worked with several other Extension specialists in the animal science unit.

Albaugh: Yes, Horace Strong and I shared an office for many years. Then in 1962, Jim Elings arrived. Jim deserves a lot of credit for his efforts on the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA) program, as he was handling it during the most difficult times. In 1967, when I was asked to assist on the CBCIA program, Jim and I worked together exceedingly well. He was always a real gentleman. Of course, as a farm advisor in Sacramento, he also excelled. He and Glen Goble were the first to ever start conducting livestock institutes.

Glenn Spurlock then came on board; he was responsible for the statewide sheep program as well as carcass cutability. Jim Clawson



Albaugh: then replaced Horace upon his retirement and was in our unit a short while when he took Les Berry's place as a range specialist. That's the time when you, Ken, came to replace Jim and John Dunbar filled Jim Clawson's shoes. Let me tell you something about John here. We worked quite closely when he was farm advisor in Humboldt County. He could take material developed by a specialist and use it effectively; for example, on one of my trips to Humboldt to participate in a cattlemen's meeting, I said, "John, let's trade speeches today." And we did so with no problem. And, in developing illustrative material for his presentations, John always managed to come up with some striking and well prepared visuals. He has always been extremely well liked by his livestock clientele.

The Extension dairy specialists have also always been closely associated with us in location and in working with many of the same farm advisors. Clem Pelissier and I shared an office when I first came to Davis; then Bob Appleman, Don Bath and Frank Murrill became part of the team (Murrill replaced Appleman). More recently, as you know, Glen Ufford is our geneticist working on both dairy and beef programs.

In the early '70s Glen Goble was also assigned to our unit as a dairy technologist. Glen was quite versatile and was not the least bit afraid to try something new. If you made a constructive suggestion he'd grab the ball and run with it. Once I was scheduled to give a crossbreeding talk at a cattlemen's meeting. I became ill and couldn't attend; I handed my charts over to Glen and asked him to substitute for me. This he did and in a top, professional manner.

Ellis: Reuben, you've worked closely with many veterinarians--tell us about them.

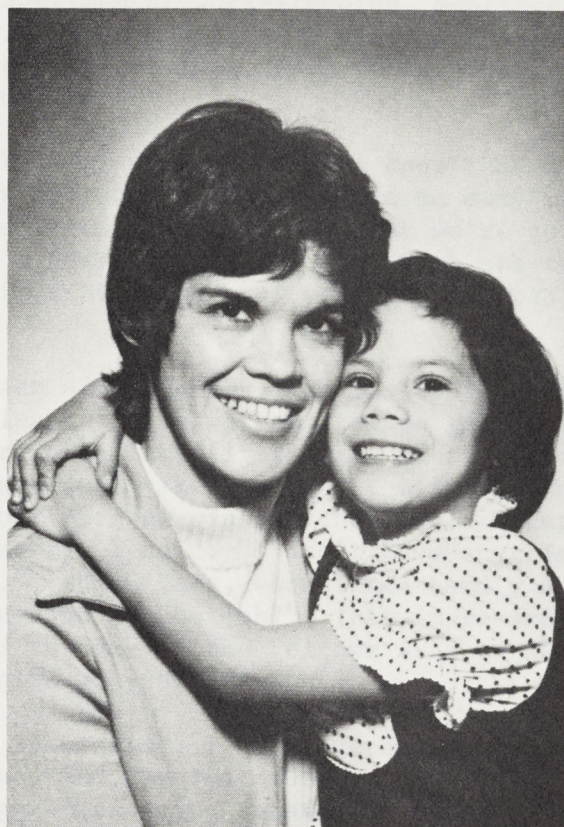
Albaugh: Ken, anyone carrying on a livestock program cannot do so successfully without the help of veterinarians. Over the years, I had the privilege and honor of working with some of the most outstanding scientists trained in this field, namely, Drs. C. B. Outhier, Monterey County; C. M. Haring, George Hart, John P. Hughes, Blaine McGowan, John Kendrick, John Wheat, Jack Howarth from the University of California.

Devoted and well trained Extension veterinarians who have developed and carried on excellent educational and research projects for the University include Kenneth McKay, George Crenshaw, Bob Bushnell and Ben Norman.

Ellis: Reuben, as you've just said, you worked for many years with Horace Strong and shared an office with him for years didn't you?

Albaugh: I worked with Horace for over twenty years. We always had an excellent working relationship, and I must say I've never met a finer





Lucy Garcia, my top hand in the secretarial arena,  
and her daughter Gina.



Albaugh: gentleman in my career. He has high character, sound integrity and his experimental work--records, meetings, etc.--was always in top order. We have been very close socially. Vira and I have been in their home many times and have found Beryl to always be the perfect hostess.

Ellis: Reuben, those of us in Extension know that a good secretary is the key to our operation. You've told me many times that you had many good secretaries, and the fact that we're going to talk about a few doesn't detract from the ones that are currently working with you. Tell us about some of your experiences with top support secretaries.

Albaugh: While a farm advisor, Ken, the most outstanding secretary I had was Eileen Volpatti. She was an Italian gal, well trained and smart. I'll never forget the first staff meeting she attended. Mr. Tavernetti, the farm advisor, asked each of the Extension crew what we were doing and what our program was for the week. (Laughter) When it came my turn to report, I said, "I don't have anything interesting to report this week." And Eileen, whom I had hardly met, said, "What's the matter, you laying down on the job?" That impressed me. She was very helpful to me, and as some of the fellows used to say, "Eileen made you look good in spite of yourself."

As a specialist, I had several fine secretaries, most of them well trained and devoted. One evening when I walked in the office, Lucy Zaragoza was being interviewed by Horace Strong, and he said, "Rube, before you leave I'd like to have you talk to this young lady." Lucy and I visited for a while and then I said, "Can you take shorthand?" She replied, "Yes."

"All right, I'd like to have you take a letter to Sedge Nelson. He's a farm advisor in Siskiyou County, and this is what I want to tell him." In my dictation I tried to use a lot of tough words such as stilbestrol, progesterone, synchronizing heat periods, etc. I said, "Am I going too fast?" She replied, "I'm waiting for you."

When we finished, I asked her to go type it. She did so and returned with it all typed and an envelope addressed. She said, "I'm sorry, this letter is not very neat."

"What's wrong with it?"

"I'm not accustomed to the typewriter--it's rather old, the keys are dirty, and I wasn't able to find the typewriter cleaner or a good eraser."

"How did you know where to get Sedge's address? I see you addressed an envelope."



Albaugh: "I've been working in the Yolo County farm advisor's office, and I'm familiar with the Extension roster that contains all county addresses." I thought this gal was all right and said, "I suppose if we hire you, you'll stay a few months and leave."

"Well, I hadn't planned on it."

"You're not married, are you?"

"No, but I'm going to be married soon." She continued, "I'd like to ask you a question, how long do you let pregnant women work here?"

"If they're good, they can work as long as they want to. You can come over tomorrow and start to work."<sup>1</sup>

Lucy Zaragoza Garcia has been here for eighteen years now and has not only been a great help, but has been an inspiration to me. Lucy has a very outstanding and friendly personality. She is a team player. We often jokingly say that alone we may not amount to much but together we excell!

Geri Rippengale was also a top secretary and helpful to me in writing poems and illustrating programs and invitations for our family reunions.

Ellis: Did you ever have a thought or desire about leaving Extension? You've been with this outfit almost fifty years . . . a half century.

Albaugh: When I first entered Extension, I thought I'd stay about three years and get into the business world--but I didn't.

Ellis: So . . . three years have gone into fifty. You've had opportunities, I'm sure.

Albaugh: Yes, I've had several opportunities to leave, but I'm surely glad I didn't go, Ken.

Ellis: As you look back fifty years, Reuben, what changes would you have made in your Extension career? Or are you plumb happy with the way everything turned out?

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<sup>1</sup>[Editor's Note: Personnel hiring rules currently prohibit questioning the applicant about age, marital status and giving a typing exam by the prospective department employer.]



Albaugh: Why, Ken, that's a tough question. I've enjoyed it as you know or I wouldn't have stayed this long. I don't know . . .

Ellis: From our standpoint I don't think we'd change a thing!

Albaugh: Well, I do. I should have taken more formal training. I would strongly recommend that new specialists be highly trained yet have a practical approach to the needs of the industry. Perhaps one of the main reasons I did not pursue further studies was because of the excellent cooperation I received from all members of the Animal Science Department. For example, anytime I wanted to seek their advice about technical material or when I was planning research programs, the staff members did not hesitate to assist me. I was never turned down, Ken.

#### Training the Pacesetter

Ellis: You've spent many years training livestock farm advisors, Rube. How does a specialist train farm advisors? What did you do to bring people along, to make them search themselves, to look critically at their own programs? What philosophy did you employ to encourage farm advisors to write and speak well?

Albaugh: Well, Ken, the regional farm advisor's training meetings held in Northern California had much to do with encouraging farm advisors to develop outstanding programs. John Spurlock, Assistant State Director, was a great help in conducting these events. He acted as chairman and was able to present his own Extension philosophy on how to develop and conduct programs. Les Berry, range specialist, worked closely with us in organizing and conducting these events.

For example, at these training sessions, we planned the programs for their livestock schools, traveling conferences, field tours and research projects. Under this system, many of these activities were planned and developed in most of the counties. This is what we used to call "getting mileage" out of Extension programs. It was always my theory that it was much better to hold fifteen livestock schools on a continuous basis than to hold one or two.

Ellis: Tell us about the traveling conferences which you initiated.

Albaugh: We found that they were a good teaching vehicle. They got the farm advisors out of their counties to see what other people were doing and that kept them from becoming provincial. The people whose ranches we visited were happy to have us there.

An example that emphasizes the importance of these traveling conferences was the one that started in Modoc County. We arrived



Albaugh: in Alturas, Sunday night. The cattlemen in that friendly county had a cocktail party planned for us. Brunel Christensen, county supervisor at that time, welcomed us to Modoc County and was delighted that the University of California personnel would visit that remote area to observe new, scientific experiments about the cattle business. This is what we called public relations to the nth degree. Norman Nichols and Tom Bedell were holding the Extension ribbons then.

One of the most successful traveling tours was developed in 1951. Don Smith, farm advisor in Tehama County, originated the theme, "More Meat per Acre." Don was a promoter who had no peer. Vic Osterli, Extension specialist in agronomy, and I worked with the farm advisors in organizing these fifteen county tours. We had a loud speaking system mounted on a University truck. Farm advisors took active parts in disseminating information at the various ranch stops. At noon time each day, we had a principal speaker either from the Departments of Animal Science or Agronomy.

These were wonderful tours. They were interesting, informative and a lot of fun.

Ellis: I remember as a young farm advisor, Reuben, in Tehama County I was going to hold a cattlemen's meeting. I don't remember the subject, but I called you on the telephone and asked if you'd come up to that meeting and give a talk. I was brand new and kind of scared and not too sure of myself. I said, "What are you going to talk about--Cross-breeding of beef cattle?" Then you went on to say, "No, I won't give the talk but I'll help you prepare it." You always encouraged farm advisors to participate in their county programs, Rube--would you explain that philosophy and how that fits into training people?

Albaugh: Ken, in order for a farm advisor to have prestige in his area, he cannot be just an "arranger" of events. He has to be a good organizer and participate in disseminating information at all educational meetings. If he relies too heavily on a specialist to do his job, he not only loses an opportunity to gain good experience but also may lose prestige among his own clientele.

To illustrate this further, the first group of livestock schools we held on a continuous basis were in the northcoast counties which were then supervised by J. E. Tippet, one of the greatest Extension men the University of California has ever known. I emphasized to Tipp that each farm advisor should be on the program and present subject matter. He agreed and so notified each one.

This idea worked fine until we got to Humboldt County. Doug Pine was then county director and he did not want to give a subject matter talk at his school. Finally he said if I would write one for him that he'd give it. I prepared a talk for him on nutrition. At



Albaugh: horse I was riding belonged to Rob Flournoy, Galar Rucker (who was the meeting Doug got up and started "reading" the manuscript. About half way through, he remarked, "I really don't know anything about this subject. Rube, you get up here and give this talk!" So I gave the talk plus another one, "The Iron Man of the Day." Even though Doug did not give too many subject matter speeches, he was highly thought of and respected in Humboldt County. Upon retirement, Doug trained John Dunbar as his replacement.

Ellis: Yes, he made a real contribution in Humboldt County. This gets back to your philosophy, Reuben, when you talk about boosting your farm advisors, training them and helping the people in their counties realize they didn't have to have a specialist from the state staff do some of these jobs. That's what you mean by saying that the specialist's success is also the farm advisor's. Is that what you're getting at, Rube?

Albaugh: I think that it helps both individuals. I've had many farm advisors thank me later for being pushy and demanding (laughter). I know Monte Bell said more than once, "Rube, I'm always amazed at you because you always put me in a spot where I have to do something." But after he completed the assignment he was glad he became involved.

Ellis: I think that was good philosophy, Reuben, speaking as a former farm advisor, you made us look at ourselves as well as our programs, and if we weren't performing effectively, we tried to make some changes.

Albaugh: John Spurlock had a real good philosophy. He used to tell farm advisors, "Always have something to show people like a test or demonstration--that's important." Result and method demonstrations are still fundamentally sound teaching systems, Ken.

Ellis: That's right--they're basic!

Rube, what would you say is one of the most difficult tasks for a farm advisor?

Albaugh: It's putting on a program that will attract a large number of his county producers. Norman Nichols, farm advisor for Modoc County, during the fifties, came up with an idea of putting on a roping contest. Rob Flournoy (then president of that county's cattlemen association) and Walter Rodman (then secretary of that group) were to rope against John Baumgartner (president of the California Cattlemen's Association) and me.

John and I were first to rope--he was heading and I was heeling. The honda in the rope John was using had been cut so when he caught his calf, it broke. We got another animal and another rope. The



Albaugh: horse I was riding belonged to Rob Flournoy. Boler Rucker (who was then with the California Livestock Identification Service) said, "Rube, watch that old mare because she turns off when you catch your animal." I didn't pay much attention to him but I found out later-- she not only stopped but did turn at the same time. I fell off but lit on my feet before this large crowd. They said I looked good falling off. Anyhow, John and I won the contest and we received a \$20.00 bill.

Ellis: This experience is also a good example of the versatility of a livestock specialist as well as the many interesting and challenging assignments he may have, don't you think, Rube?

Albaugh: Yes, and it further points out the creativity of a farm advisor. Since then many farm advisors have used similar ideas to attract people to their producer meetings.

Ellis: What do you feel is the "backbone" of Cooperative Extension?

Albaugh: It has always been my contention that the "farm advisor" is the key individual who makes Extension Service "tick". He is on the firing line and is responsible for the program at the "grass roots" level. One of the greatest satisfactions I get as a livestock specialist is to be able to develop some information that farm advisors can use. My philosophy is to "make him look good."

Over the years I worked with many livestock farm advisors, especially in Northern California (since this was my assigned territory from 1949-1962), and found them to be TOP HANDS in the corral as well as on the platform. Some of the farm advisors who cooperated closely on many important field demonstrations and research projects are: Walter Johnson, Al Mitchell, Norm Nichols, Carl Rimbey, Bill Helphinstine, Ken Ellis, Monte Bell, John Dunbar, Rod Shippey, Jim Elings, Don Smith, Jack Herr, Rocky Lydon, Jim Clawson, Don Petersen, Sedge Nelson, Sam Thurber, Al Moore, Marion Stanley, Lin Maxwell, Dean Irving, Cecil Pierce and Glen Goble. Top farm advisors are always receptive to new ideas, Ken. This entire group qualifies on that basis alone.

Ellis: Reuben, you have often commended Rocky Lydon for his knowledge of livestock and ability as an organizer. What events did you participate in for San Benito County?

Albaugh: For many years Rocky has held an annual cattlemen's meeting (almost a symposium because livestockmen from several other counties usually attend). These meetings are always highly organized and well attended. I had the privilege and pleasure of being one of the speakers of this event for fourteen consecutive years.



Ellis: Fourteen years? That's quite a record.

Albaugh: Yes, I guess it's a record, Ken. It also points out the generosity and tolerance of the people of San Benito County. I ran out of material on beef cattle, so finally talked about my favorite subject, horses. It is disappointing that I will not be able to take part in this fine livestock event this year because of another commitment.

Ellis: Over the years you have worked with farm advisors in Tehama County, including my predecessor Lin Maxwell. Tell us about his unique Extension methods.

Albaugh: Lin carried on his program of work through well organized, selected committees of livestock and range operators. This was different from the way in which most farm advisors operate. Using these committees naturally involved other people so they became concerned about the success of the Extension program in the county. I remember one night attending a school in Red Bluff. There were not very many people in the audience, and when the meeting was scheduled to start one of his committeemen was real concerned. However, before the night was over, there was a good attendance.

Albaugh: Another time I attended a meeting in Santa Barbara County, and there was a very large crowd. One fellow said to me, "You know why there are so many people here?" "No," I replied. "This committee Lin Maxwell organized got on the telephone and urged them to attend." Ken, this is an innovative and effective Extension method.

Ellis: You've often praised Walter Johnson for his Extension devotion.

Albaugh: One of Walter's outstanding attributes is to take material developed by a specialist and put it into use effectively. Once in a while he'd give it a new twist, such as using my charts in reverse order, but still telling the same story.

Ellis: You've also often mentioned Monte Bell's versatility, Reuben.

Albaugh: Monte is probably the most versatile farm advisor I've had the pleasure of working with. He has effective, original ideas on developing and disseminating information. Monte's a champion on the platform as well as in the corral. I tried many times to convince him to become a livestock specialist. His contributions in the livestock industry at this level would have been tremendous.

Albaugh: I think many people, for you know the spoken word is often forgotten but the written statement is preserved for posterity. Just the other day, for instance, I was looking at some material written twenty-five years ago, and it's still good!

Another advantage of writing, especially under a by-line, is that you get your name before the public and naturally become well known.



The Written Word - Publish or Perish

Ellis: Reuben, let's discuss some of your methods of communication, what were the influences that gave you the desire to write?

Albaugh: Well, Ken, when I started college, my dad gave me three hundred dollars and he said, "I want you to go up there and make good. There's one special thing I want you to do--learn how to write."

Ellis: That was your dad who gave you that charge?

Albaugh: That's what he said. Of course, I remembered it. As I previously stated, when I got to Oregon State at Corvallis, E. L. Potter, head of the Animal Science Department, urged me to also take public speaking and journalism.

These two subjects were really tough, Ken.

Ellis: Why were they so tough?

Albaugh: Because I didn't have a very good vocabulary and I couldn't spell. However, I did develop an unusual style that apparently people like. During my senior year, I won the cup for getting the most inches written in the school paper.

Ellis: At Oregon State?

Albaugh: Yes, and I was competing against many students who were on the editorial staff of the school paper. To write is hard work, Ken. Every once in a while, I get an urge to write something and I can't be content until it is complete. And the hardest part of writing is to get a start. You usually keep putting it off, finding excuses to do something else. Right now I'm supposed to be writing an article on horse behavior. I've got some notes, but I'm finding it tough, so I'm working around it, but I'll eventually get the job done.

I suppose to get papers published, you not only have to like to write but also have a deep desire to see your thoughts in print.

Ellis: What do you see as the benefits in the written word?

Albaugh: The real benefit, Ken, is that we reach many people, for you know the spoken word is often forgotten but the written statement is preserved for posterity. Just the other day, for instance, I was looking at some material written twenty-five years ago, and it's still good!

Another advantage of writing, especially under a by-line, is that you get your name before the public and naturally become well known.



Albaugh: For example, several years ago my son Glen was head basketball coach for the Santa Rosa Junior College, and during the summer months he drove an icecream truck. On his way home one day he had an accident with another car. The speed cop investigating the accident asked for Glen's driver's license. When he read the name, he asked Glen, "Are you any relation to Reuben Albaugh, the man who writes for the Western Livestock Journal?" Glen replied, "Yes, he's my dad." Glen did not get a ticket--so you see, Ken, it pays to have your name before the public!

Another incident where writing paid off for me, Ken, was during a trip Vira and I made to Canada many years ago. We stayed overnight in Idaho Falls, Idaho. I looked through the directory to see if anyone lived in that town by the name of Albaugh. Lo and behold I found a Ralph Albaugh. I started to call him on the telephone but since it was the 4th of July, we decided he would not be home. We started to go to dinner and I asked the motel manager where the best place was to eat. He recommended two restaurants and we picked the first one we found of the two he suggested.

When the waitress came to our table, I asked if she knew anybody by the name of Ralph Albaugh. "Yes," she said, "he's the best criminal attorney in Idaho, and by the way, he's just walking in the door." I gave her my Elks membership card and had her show it to him. He read it, came to our table and we had a nice visit.

You know, Ken, the name Reuben Albaugh is not very common, but there is a man who lives in Texas by the same name, no relation either. He read a story I wrote in the "Country Gentleman" so he corresponded with me.

Ellis: Reuben, isn't writing something you have always encouraged the farm advisors to do?

Albaugh: Everybody! Each time I go into Clem Pelissier's office, I say, "Well, Clem, you're writing." He'll reply, "Well, Rube, you told me to do this twenty-five years ago." (Laughter.)

Ellis: Twenty-five years ago (laughter). What are some of the publications you've written? I know you've authored at least three books because I have them on my shelf. Tell us about them.

Albaugh: I would like to particularly discuss the textbook, Beef Cattle Production, Ken, because it's interesting to know how it was started. I had only been in Davis a few years when I was walking down Shields Avenue and met Dr. George Hart (at that time he was the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine). He was a good friend of mine and had been very cooperative on many projects while I was in Monterey County. He said, "Where are you going?" "To the library," I replied.



Albaugh: "I want you to go over to the vet school with me," he said. "They're having a lecture that I want you to hear."

So we walked into that three-million-dollar building and he asked me what I thought of it. "What do you think the cattlemen would say if they saw this place?" he asked.

"Well, Dr. Hart, they'd probably say, 'if George thinks it's all right, we do too.'" That's how much the cattlemen thought of him.

George went on to say, "You know, Rube, prior to Professor Guilbert's death, we had promised each other that we'd write a textbook on beef cattle. I want to do that and I want you to help me."

"You can certainly pick out somebody better than me to help you with this book."

"No," he said, "I want you to do it, and we ought to start on it right away. I know the McGraw-Hill people in San Francisco. Why don't you write a chapter on the economics of the beef business and I'll prepare one on the physiological processes. We'll then meet with them and discuss the possibility of publishing this book." So I did.

When we met with them, the editor did not think much of our writings and tried to discourage us on the assignment. George said to me, "Are we going to quit?"

"No, we're not going to quit, we're going to write this book."

"That's the spirit I want."

On returning to Davis, we prepared an outline on fourteen chapters. George wrote six of them and I prepared eight. In order to write this book, I asked for a sabbatical leave which was granted. We wrote for six months straight. This was some of the hardest work I have ever done, Ken.

Dr. Hart reviewed some of my chapters and he said to me, "Rube, you are a careless writer--you have got to learn to document your statements." That, Ken, was a great education to me and the references we accumulated really made the book valuable.

During this time, Prentice-Hall Publishing Company became interested in our book and offered to print it. Dr. Hart was not too impressed with this publishing company, so we turned them down.



Albaugh: At the end of the six months we decided we needed two more chapters, one on range management and the other on animal behavior. So Dr. Hart asked Ken Wagnon to prepare these two chapters since he had carried on some outstanding studies on these two phases of beef production. Ken agreed to co-author this book with us.

Macmillan Publishing Company heard that we were writing this text and contacted us. After reviewing some of the chapters, we signed a contract with Macmillan. In the meantime, Dr. Hart developed cancer and died before the book was printed. The Macmillan people insisted that Dr. Bill Pope of Oklahoma State University review the book. Dr. Pope was a top reviewer and made many valuable suggestions. We received excellent assistance and advice from many members of the Animal Science Department. My wife, Vira, and Dr. Glenn Spurlock were especially helpful in editing this manuscript. And when it came to editing, Ken Wagnon was a champion. His integrity was beyond reproach. He was a stickler for details.

Ellis: It wasn't easy, was it?

Albaugh: It wasn't easy, but we were awfully glad it was done. It was finally published in 1960.

Ellis: There were several secretaries involved in typing this book, weren't there?

Albaugh: We had several fine ladies assist in the typing of this book. My friend, Erna Thompson, typed several chapters for a very nominal fee. She asked me later if there were any mistakes, and I told her there were two or three. She said, "There shouldn't have been any!"

As I recall, the secretaries involved included Evelyn Clegg, Lois Bertoli, Geri Rippengale, Lucy Garcia got in on the tailend of it.

Ellis: You must have also spent a great deal of time in the library, Reuben?

Albaugh: Yes, it was necessary that I spend a great deal of time at the UC library looking up references. It was during this time that I became well acquainted with John Sekerak, Assistant Librarian. Over the years John has been extremely helpful to me. He has been generous with his time, and his advice on gathering references in the field of agriculture has been excellent. John is also a top hand on the golf course and at the bridge table!

Ellis: How widely distributed has that book been?

Albaugh: I don't really know. They printed several thousand copies, and it's been out of print for several years. I just received a letter that



Albaugh: Macmillan gave up their rights to the book. Prentice-Hall is again interested and they have asked us to revise it.

Ellis: This is Beef Cattle Production?

Albaugh: Yes. They want it revised but Ken Wagnon's not interested in this revision. The editor asked me if there was anyone else at the University at Davis who would be interested in bringing it up to date? Are you, Ken?

Ellis: (Laughter) We'll have to talk about that. You may get a deal.

Albaugh: If it's revised, much of the material is already prepared, but it would still be a big, tough job.

Ellis: So there is still a need for good publications?

Albaugh: Yes. As you know, Beef Cattle Production is very practical and at the same time it is also quite scientific. It has a western flavor to it and that's probably one of the reasons it wasn't extensively used in many of the eastern colleges.

Ellis: What about your other two books, Reuben?

Albaugh: As you know, Ken, over the years I published many subject matter stories along with historical yarns about folklore. Also, I wrote biographies of well known, famous livestock people. Many of these stories were published in the Western Livestock Journal and other livestock magazines. This gave me a hunch to write a book entitled Cattle, Country and Champions.

Not only was I the author, but also the publisher. Therefore, I did my own marketing. This book sold well--reprinted three times, and I am still receiving orders even though it is out of print. Here, again, Vira and Glenn Spurlock helped me greatly in editing this publication.

Ellis: What was your third book entitled?

Albaugh: Horses and Men (laughter).

Ellis: Is it sold out, too?

Albaugh: Yes, however, there may be a few copies left in the bookstore.

Ellis: What gave you the idea or inspiration to author this book?

Albaugh: It was after I became the state horse specialist in 1973. Vira and I, our good friends Bob and Nellie Nash, were returning from the



Albaugh: California Rodeo at Salinas. Nellie said, "Rube, you know so much about horses, why don't you write a book about them?" To tell you the truth, that did not appeal to me a damn bit--I didn't think I wanted to work that hard. After thinking about it a few weeks, I decided it was a good idea.

Ellis: Was it as difficult a task as you had anticipated?

Albaugh: For some reason, Ken (probably because of experience), this book was easier to write than the other two, and it was more enjoyable.

Henry Schacht (former Extension communications specialist), writing in the San Francisco Chronicle, gave my book a big plug. He referred to me as the "Epitome of the West." Thanks, Henry.

In talking about the written word, I have always had a high regard for those who make their livelihood through the journalistic route. Written material is a powerful tool when it comes to informing people about changing practices. My hat goes off to writers like Nelson and Dick Crow, Forrest Bassford, of the Western Livestock Journal; Jack Pickett and Don Razee of California Farmer; Bill Staiger of California Cattleman.

Ellis: Rube, of the many stories you have written, which do you think were the best?

Albaugh: "Cow Country Champion" and "My Reflections while Standing before the Lincoln Memorial." It's interesting to note, Ken, that my two favorites are about a prominent cattleman and about the most distinguished president of the U.S.--two great men who fully represented the "epitomes" of their own life calling.

When Wes Eade was admitted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame, Don Smith organized a memorial in King City for him. I was chosen to give the eulogy which was one of the highest compliments of my career, as I've already told Julius Trescony.

Why I wrote about the Lincoln Memorial? It was on the Swift trip when we visited Washington, D. C. that I had my first opportunity to view the Lincoln Memorial. I was so impressed with the statue of this great man that I went back to my hotel room and wrote a rough draft of my impressions, which turned out to be one of the best stories I have penned.

Ellis: Reuben, we've talked several times about writing and developing information, and I noticed in a rough tally that since 1950 you've written over 200 technical and semi-technical articles and over 280 popular articles. This is in addition to your books. How did you get this much work done--you must have felt there was real value in it.



Albaugh: I've often said, Ken, that all you need to be able to write is a pencil and a piece of paper, and you can steal them both at Western Union. Of course, you need more than that.

I think the reason I was able to write so many articles and publications was because I dictated the material--I don't write anything longhand. I think this speeds the work up--I don't have to concentrate on anything but the subject matter. Usually before I write a story I think about it for a few days. I then prepare an outline in my mind and make a few written notes. I then dictate it to my secretary; she roughs it out and then we edit the material. Sometimes when I dictate to Lucy, we never have to change anything in the article. I can usually tell from the look on her face while dictating if my statements are clear; if the words are correct; or if the construction is right. If not, we stop and talk about it and make the necessary changes.

Another reason for my doing the written word is that I guess I just like to write.

Ellis: How do you discipline your thinking and your thoughts to be able to dictate something that you don't have to change? Especially for a publication? I know many of us have trouble with this.

Albaugh: The main thing, Ken, is to get something on paper. Get a start. At times at home in the evening, I'll be reading the newspaper and I'll get an idea. I go to my desk and start making an outline. After that, the words just seem to roll out. But I do have to discipline myself because it is a burdening task from which to walk away. Just as I mentioned to you earlier, I've been fooling around with this horse behavior story, and it's tough, but I'll have it finished in a few days.

Ellis: Reuben, how about Extension publications? What are some of the major ones that you've prepared? Which ones have been the most valuable to the industry? What are some of the occurrences that made you decide to prepare and publish them?

Albaugh: You mean the best ones that I wrote?

Ellis: Yes. The ones that stand out in your mind, Reuben--I know we can't go through them all.

Albaugh: I suppose the big one was Beef Cattle Handling and Feeding Equipment, the first publication I prepared as a specialist. The first year over three thousand copies were sold to other states, and it has been revised three times. As I mentioned earlier, Clarence Kelly (then in the ag engineering department) was co-author--he was a great man.



Albaugh: He was limited in his knowledge about working equipment but he knew how to put blueprints and plans together and how to build for strength and economy.

The crossbreeding bulletin was another one that was highly accepted. The State of Wyoming purchased three thousand copies right off the bat. Glenn Spurlock was the co-author.

Another earlier bulletin was on the use of stilbestrol. Although Dr. Tran Clegg was the senior author, most of the data came from Extension field studies, using this hormone to increase weight gains in beef cattle.

Ellis: Wasn't there an interesting story on how you got started working with stilbestrol, Rube?

Albaugh: Yes there is. In 1951 I received a report from Purdue University on some studies they had conducted on beef cattle using stilbestrol.

Ellis: Did they do the first work with this hormone?

Albaugh: They did the first work, and it looked good to me. I put the report on Harold Cole's desk with a note, "What do you think of this?" He returned the report with his note, "I don't think it will work." That didn't stop me. I went in to see him again and said, "Harold, I think this hormone will work. Let's get out in the field and try it."

"Do you think you can get cooperators?"

"I think we can. Let's write a project on it."

So we did and we got six field tests underway the first year.

Ellis: Where were they? Which county? Do you remember? I know one of them was in Tehama County.

Albaugh: (Laughter) Yes it was. Tehama, Colusa and Sacramento Counties, and I can't think of the others.

We implanted the animals with 60 milligrams of stilbestrol in the neck. The treated cattle gained about 25 percent faster than the controls, and they did it more efficiently. About this time Dr. Clegg came to the department and carried on a well controlled test here at Davis. We then wrote the bulletin on this subject. It was the University of California at Davis that really put stilbestrol on the map, so to speak.

Ellis: Any other publications that come to mind?



Albaugh: Bill Weir came to me in the early days and said, "We've got to write a sheep manual." So he and I wrote the first sheep manual.

Ellis: When was that?

Albaugh: That must have been about 1954, along in there somewhere.

Ellis: We didn't have a sheep manual until then?

Albaugh: We didn't even have a publication on sheep production. Glenn Spurlock rewrote an excellent manual on sheep in about 1970.

Ellis: But you're one of the authors, too?

Albaugh: Yes. One of my contributions to the first sheep manual was the management and results of breeding ewe lambs. I had done some work on this breeding practice in Monterey. South Dakota Animal Science Department had also done some work on this in the late 1930's. I made a survey of the counties involved and obtained additional data which we used. Recently this subject was presented at the California Livestock Symposium.

Ellis: Twenty years later? It's interesting how things go full-circle, isn't it? The ewe lamb program you just mentioned is being emphasized twenty years later.

Now, Reuben, breeding yearling heifers is still new to some people. Would you tell me how this program got started?

Albaugh: Ken, this project has already been discussed in detail in my interview with Julius Trescony. It was a big project statewide and findings resulted in our circular on Breeding Yearling Heifers.

Ellis: It's still being used, but it may be a new idea today to some operators who haven't tried it before.

Albaugh: It is widely used and the reason, to quote Sally Forbes of the Beckton Ranch, Wyoming, "We can't afford the luxury of not breeding them early."

Ellis: That's right! Didn't you acquire a nickname from this, Reuben?

Albaugh: I acquired the nickname of Breed 'em Young Albaugh--not Brigham Young--but Breed 'em Young (laughter).



Pioneering Genetic Improvement--CBCIA

Ellis: Reuben, you were one of the pioneers of the California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA). Wasn't this group incorporated in 1959?

Albaugh: Yes, that's when the organization started.

Ellis: You've told me many times you fellows took a lot of criticism getting CBCIA started. I think this is quite a story because you fellows were out of step--you were a step ahead or more. So tell us about how CBCIA got started.

Albaugh: As I've already said, Professor Guilbert started the grading and performance testing system back in the 1930's. In Monterey County we were grading and weighing cattle as a means of selection. When I became a specialist, we continued to urge farm advisors to expand this program. We held demonstrations not only on grading cattle but sessions on the procedures of recording and analyzing the data.

In a few years we had several thousand head of cattle enrolled in this program, and farm advisors were devoting a large amount of their time to this project. In order to relieve farm advisors of some of this work, we decided to form an organization which would enable us to expand the program, improve recordkeeping methods and increase the accuracy of the data. At the first meeting we held (in 1956), the record of performance cooperators voted against organizing and this was disappointing to me. The mainstream of the purebred breeders was against performance testing. They felt they could carry on their own program, of course, with the help of the farm advisors. They thought eyeballing cattle alone was sufficient.

Ellis: Were they really against it? I mean openly?

Albaugh: They were against it. The breed associations were against it, too.

Ellis: What was your next step?

Albaugh: Gene Salvage, owner of the Lucky Hereford Ranch in Gilroy, was a staunch supporter of the performance testing program carried on by UC Extension. Gene was also successful in the beer business! About 1958 he hired a man named Jim Sanders (who later became CBCIA's first president) who had formerly managed the Mill Iron properties in Texas.

The first time I met Jim was in Sierra Valley. Mr. Salvage had purchased several ranches in that area and was running about



Albaugh: 5,000 head of cattle, both grades and purebreds. Horace Strong, Bud Beckley, farm advisor for Santa Clara County, and I were invited to grade the purebred weaner calves in Sierra Valley. After we graded a few calves, Jim said to me, "Do you think you're putting the right grades on these animals?"

I said, "Jim, I do. Some of them are too damn small, but if you want to keep them, it's all right with me."

"I'll tell you, Rube," Jim said, (this was our first meeting) "I'm going down here to get a well started, and anything you want to cull, you put in that corral."

Ellis: He didn't even stay around?

Albaugh: He returned in about an hour.

Ellis: Yes, but I mean he trusted you to cull them?

Albaugh: Well, he wasn't trusting me until after he saw what was in the corral. After lunch he looked over the group in the corral, about twenty-five head. He took out one or two and said, "You're right. We're on the wrong track here--they are too small."

Albaugh: In the early days, Ken, we had standard weights: heifers should weigh 480 pounds at 8 months and bulls, 560 pounds. When I mentioned this to Jim he said, "That won't fit our area here, Rube."

"Jim, before we get through grading, you're going to have a lot of calves that will meet that weight." We did.

Anyhow, Ken, I became very well acquainted with Jim Sanders. Now, getting back to CBCIA, in order to get it going, we had to select a president who was accepted by the breed associations as well as the people who were in our performance program. So I said to Jim, "We are going to hold a meeting in Davis to organize an association of cattlemen in the record of performance program. I'd like for you to attend and support the idea." We held the meeting in the engineering building, and had about 125 in attendance.

Ellis: That many?

Albaugh: Yes. Several speeches were made. Jim backed us up, and he was elected president. The organization took off, and we became incorporated. Jim was a great help in getting this project underway because people said, "If Jim Sanders thinks this program is sound, we do, too."

Another Hereford breeder, Bruce Orvis of Farmington, was also highly respected. He also helped in the early stages of the performance group effort.



Ellis: What, then, was the date that CBCIA became incorporated?

Albaugh: February 20, 1959, after which time the board of directors hired a technician to assume responsibility of improving the record system and analyzing the data so it would be useful to the breeders. Jim Pollock who was the beef cattle herdsman in the department was selected for this assignment.

CBCIA was plagued from the start with computer problems. The directors decided the best way to solve these problems was to ask the University for another livestock specialist whose responsibility was solely the record of performance programs. In order to get this new specialist, the administration had to be sold on the idea. I made a trip to Gilroy, spent the night with Jim Sanders, explaining the necessity for such an appointment. I suggested that he discuss this with Extension Director George Alcorn. I believe Harold Overfelt of Hollister accompanied him to Berkeley.

Director Alcorn accepted the idea and Jim Elings, then livestock farm advisor and county director of Sacramento, was appointed to this position. Under Jim's direction CBCIA made tremendous progress.

Ellis: Reuben, when did you reactivate your involvement in the CBCIA program?

Albaugh: As you recall, Ken, in 1967 the UC Extension budget was severely reduced and several members were asked to resign. That was when I retired. However, Director Alcorn asked me if I would continue and carry on the administrative functions for CBCIA. I discussed this request with my secretary, Lucy Garcia, and asked if she would be willing to accept the secretarial duties for this organization. She agreed, and has been carrying on this responsibility ever since in a very professional and admirable manner.

Ellis: When did the breed associations get on the band wagon for promoting performance testing?

Albaugh: About 1965 the breed associations established programs for recording and analyzing performance data. They were all anxious to secure new members in this program.

In 1970, Jim Elings organized a series of meetings in the state with representatives of the breed associations, livestock farm advisors and CBCIA members, to discuss their programs. As a result, Cooperative Extension urged cattlemen to join the breed association programs. There was a reason for this change--these associations had now established sophisticated computer programs that were also practical and workable. Then, too, University personnel had demonstrated how to collect and analyze data and the time had arrived when this could be turned over to commercial organizations.



Ellis: Data on commercial herds is still recorded and processed by CBCIA, Rube, and this includes calf and postweaning reports as well as carcass evaluation programs. What other activities did CBCIA undertake after the computer processing of data for purebred herds was being done by the breed organizations?

Albaugh: Central bull feeding tests and sales became an important activity for CBCIA and as you know, Ken, are still vital to this organization. The purpose of this central feed testing program is to locate high-performing bulls. The sales assist breeders in merchandising their product.

All bulls entering these programs were carefully screened for structural soundness, proper conformation, semen quality and performance such as WDA. At each one of these sales an educational program was presented, emphasizing the importance of performance testing of beef cattle.

Dr. Perry Cupps of the Animal Science Department assisted us in pioneering the semen testing of bulls. In 1970, when CBCIA started to conduct bull sales, Perry continued to carry on this project with great devotion and interest. Over the years he has analyzed the semen quality of several hundred bulls. This has been a far-reaching program because every bull going through the CBCIA auction had to pass the semen test. This forced other sales to adopt these same regulations; thus, improving the fertility of beef cattle.

Ellis: Do you think these programs have influenced the beef industry?

Albaugh: They have had a tremendous influence because they emphasize the use of science in selecting cattle. As you know, other sales have followed CBCIA procedures of evaluating sale animals for desirability, including structural soundness, semen testing and providing performance records.

Ellis: What other educational programs does CBCIA sponsor for cattlemen of this state?

Albaugh: CBCIA sponsors two educational meetings each year. Top cabin speakers are solicited for these meetings. Two excellent examples of outstanding events are the CBCIA "COW"-ference and the CBCIA "CHOW"-ference. These two symposiums, one held in 1974 and the other in 1976, were two half-day sessions where the subjects were devoted to the cow and calf producer and the second program was on exotic feeds and by-products. These meetings were extremely well attended and the subject matter very favorably received.

In addition, the newsletter, "CBCIA Notes," is prepared and sent to members on a monthly basis. In addition to carrying house-keeping items, it features results of up-to-date research work on



Albaugh: beef cattle production. Four times a year a specially prepared "Notes" is sent to an expanded list of 1800 cattlemen and others interested in the beef business.

Ellis: Reuben, you have told the story of CBCIA's history and functions in championship style. I can fully appreciate the pioneering work that so many people contributed to the success of this organization. What would you say has been the most significant contribution that CBCIA has made to the cattle industry in California and the West?

Albaugh: I think the greatest accomplishment is that they have advocated a scientific approach to selecting cattle for rate of gain, WDA, feed efficiency and carcass merit. There's no doubt that many of the purebred breeders have used this procedure and have developed higher-producing, more efficient cattle. This seedstock has greatly improved the cattle population as a whole.

Ellis: Well, not everyone's convinced, but many people have changed their minds, haven't they?

Albaugh: Oh, yes. There's been a big change. Even before you left Tehama County, Ken, you remember the annual CBCIA field meeting held at Bill Borrer's ranch? We had the president of the American Hereford Association, Joe Budd, discuss the value of performance testing. This was a great victory because a few years before Joe was talking against it. Time flies and with it all things do change.

One other great accomplishment is the outstanding cooperation of CBCIA members on numerous research field trials with beef cattle. For example, the extensive progeny testing program that was organized included mainly CBCIA members. Then, too, the various methods of castration--early vs. late; Russian; short scrotum--were all carried on by CBCIA members; also embryo transfer and semen testing; carcass data from CBCIA cattle contributed to the revised USDA carcass grades of beef.

And the friendship and close cooperation with Cooperative Extension personnel are intangible bonuses that cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Ellis: A successful organization such as CBCIA must have devoted leaders. Who were the former presidents of this association?

Albaugh: Past Presidents of CBCIA include: Jim Sanders, Reno, Nevada, 1959-60; Bruce Orvis, 1961-62; William Lyles, Merced, 1963-64; John Crowe, Whitmore, 1965; Max Cardey, Riverside, 1966-67; Jim Sinton, Shandon, 1968-69; Les Fearrien, Hydesville, 1970-71; Vincent Meyer, Glenburn, 1972-73; L. H. McDaniel, Turlock, 1974-75; Bruce Borrer, Springville, 1976-1977.



Albaugh: All of these leaders certainly deserve a spot in the cattle annals of California.

### Over the Ponds and Across the Borders

Ellis: Reuben, let's shift gears a little bit. You've traveled extensively not only throughout the United States but also throughout the world. I know you brought back quantities of significant information from Australia. Among your foreign travels, what value do you feel it's been to you and to the University? What are some of the highlights?

### Australia

Albaugh: Probably the highlight of my travels was to Australia. I'll tell you how I happened to go.

Australia was always fascinating to me. My main interest in this country was to analyze its potential in the production of beef cattle and how it would compete with the United States. I asked George Alcorn for a sabbatical leave to go to this "down under" country for such a study. He approved my leave and said, "I think I can get some funds for you to make this trip from the Foreign Agricultural Service. Chester Rubel's son is in charge of the Washington, D. C. Foreign Agricultural Service." (Chester was a former regional Extension director.)

Director Alcorn contacted Mr. Rubel and they approved this assignment. They wanted me to conduct a similar study in New Zealand. I signed the contract and they were to pay me \$2400. Being under contract with the federal government proved to be a great asset while traveling in Australia. Also, being a representative of the University of California added prestige to this visit. Everywhere we went in Australia (my wife, Vira, accompanied me on this trip) people were high in their praise for the U.S. and especially the University.

Australia is a big country and in order to cover the area, we had to travel by air. I found they had the best air service in the world. Before leaving for Australia I made several contacts with University personnel as well as with CSIRO and Extension representatives. They were all very helpful in assisting me in gathering data for these reports. This was especially true with Dr. M. C. Franklin who was heading up the research department for the Australian Meat Board. He reminded me very much of Dr. Hart, and I used to refer to him as Mr. Australia.



Albaugh: We spent three months in that country, gathering data, traveling and meeting people. Before going to New Zealand, my mother became very ill and we decided to return to America. I am always glad we came home because she passed away a couple of weeks later.

Anyhow, Ken, I wrote the report, and it was a best seller. I don't know how many thousands of copies were distributed but people are still requesting this publication. What I tried to show in that report, Ken, was the great potential of animal production of Australia compared to the U.S. Although they are way behind us from the standpoint of scientific techniques they will catch up someday. Some of the smartest, well-trained men I have ever met are in Australian universities and other research institutions.

#### Canada

Ellis: Rube, you also traveled to Canada to observe their sheep operations?

Albaugh: At the Manyberries Experiment Station I had the privilege to view the Romnelet breed of sheep that had been developed on that station. Upon returning home, I gave a talk in Mendocino County regarding my trip and I showed a picture of these sheep. Rod Shippey, farm advisor, being an opportunist, made a trip to Manyberries with one of his cooperators, who purchased several Romnelet ewes and a ram. Later, Bud Marsh, president of the American National Wool Growers Association, was also impressed with this breed of sheep that had been developed on using performance records. Bud now has several in his band.

Ellis: On another trip to Canada, didn't you observe research work on crossbreeding bison with domestic cattle, and also participate in some meetings?

Albaugh: Yes. I was invited to Lethbridge to grade bulls for their sale. I received this invitation from Harry Hargrave, a practical man and good animal scientist. He was head of the animal science department at Lethbridge. While there to grade bulls, I talked at a cattlemen's meeting on dwarfism.

From Lethbridge we went to Medicine Hat and finally down to Manyberries and then home.

When we got to Medicine Hat they were having a stampede and I said to Harry, "I would like to go to this show."

"Oh, that's no problem."



Albaugh: "Do you have tickets?"

"No, but I'll show you how to get the tickets." There were five of us, Vira, myself, his wife and daughter.

We walked into the headquarters at Medicine Hat. He knew the president of the stampede and said to him, calling him by his first name, "I came to pick up my stampede tickets."

He said to the secretary, "Get Harry's tickets." The secretary replied, "I don't have any tickets for Harry."

"Well," Harry said, "there must be a mix-up; I ordered them." The president said, "That's no problem, Harry, you can sit in my box today." (Laughter) So we sat in the president's box.

We went on to Manyberries which is a large experiment station, about 57,000 acres. They were doing a lot of research work with buffalo--the bison. English bulls, namely, Hereford, Angus, and Shorthorn, were being crossed on bison cows. This project was conducted for 30 years and was finally abandoned because of the sterility in the male crosses. Information that was developed at the Manyberries station on the performance of cattalo was a big help in answering questions concerning the performance of beefalo, which has recently received considerable publicity. This animal is said to be 3/8 bison and 5/8 domestic breeds.

Several years later I was invited to the annual field day at Manyberries as a feature speaker.

Ellis: What about the ranches you visited on this second trip where they were using artificial insemination?

Albaugh: Yes, I collected information on their A. I. programs. When I returned, I wrote a paper on their results and methods and gave several talks about this program, using colored slides.

Ken, I might add that on these trips to Canada, I became quite well acquainted with the personnel at the Manyberries station. I collected performance data on their cattle and sheep research work. I also accumulated many pictures. This material was useful in answering recent questions about the beefalo.

#### Spain

Ellis: How about your trip to Spain, Rube?



Albaugh: This was a very interesting and outstanding experience. Dr. Merton Love called me one day and said he had been working with a large cattle outfit in Spain (Ganadera Internacional) on their range improvement program. They needed someone to consult with on their cattle operations, particularly their feedyard.

"I have recommended you for this assignment, and if you accept it, you'll be doing me a big favor."

I thought about the trip and finally called him and said, "I can go to Spain on Monday morning."

"That's fine, the sooner the better; I'll get all the tickets. I flew to Los Angeles, then over the North Pole to London and on to Madrid. A fellow met me in Madrid and we went to their office. His name was Carlo; he was a Count. He had studied economics at UC Davis and could speak English very well. He said, "I'd like for you to take a rest for a few hours, then we'll drive out to the ranch which is 150 miles south and west of Madrid, toward Portugal, in the Serra Nevada mountain area."

At the ranch we met Leo Culver, another partner representing Swift and Company. Swift and Company owned 28 percent of the shares in this company. I spent a week with them going over their operations. Of course, I saw a lot of country; saw and met the people of Spain. Spain is so much like California, Ken--climate, rain, fauna, and flora. I knew more about their grasses and legumes than about their cattle. As you know, most of our range plants originated in Spain.

I inspected their feedyard and made a number of recommendations on improvements. They produce oats and vetch silage. They had a high percent of Longhorn cattle and were crossing them with Charolais and Herefords. Their feedyard had a capacity of 5,000 head. Their range carried about 3,000 cows and calves.

I went to see a bull fight where seven bulls were fought and killed. The poor bull never has a chance to survive. Madrid is a beautiful place. If you ever get a chance, I hope you go to Spain because it's so much like California. Upon returning to California, I prepared a report on improved ranch practices, which was favorably received.

Ellis: Did they implement your recommendations?

Albaugh: I understand they dissolved their operations about three years later. At one time they planned to run about 30,000 cattle, leasing a lot of their range. I thought it was a pretty sound operation. Dr. Love



Albaugh: had done a wonderful job on the range improvement project. He had introduced rose, crimson and sub clovers which greatly improved the carrying capacity of the properties.

#### Hawaii

Ellis: Reuben, didn't you also go to the Hawaiian Islands?

Albaugh: While a specialist, Ken, I made two official trips to the Hawaiian Islands. The first one was to judge the 4-H fat steer roundup. I got this assignment through the courtesy of Don Smith. At that judging event I met Governor King and Lowell Dillingham, who was president of the 4-H Club Council. I mention this, Ken, to show the great cooperation that Extension had for their 4-H program. Accompanying Vira and me on this first trip were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Asher of Redding. They are great friends of ours, and we made many interesting and happy trips together during the past fifty years. Gene was a successful merchandiser of auto parts and also a good cattleman. His business ability was highly respected and he gave sound, financial advice to many people.

The second trip to Hawaii was made to assist in grading cattle on ranches cooperating in the record of performance programs. I was also the guest speaker at their annual beef cattle improvement association meeting to discuss improved breeding programs.

#### On the U.S. Range

Ellis: Reuben, you went on a special trip and it was a real value to the industry and Extension. Tell us about the Swift trip.

#### Swift Trip

Albaugh: Yes, Ken, every year the Swift and Company organizes a tour of the eastern establishments of their company to show special people how they merchandize meat. In California the president of the California Cattlemen's Association goes on that trip and represents the industry. Of course, Swift pays all the expenses. They start out in Chicago, to Boston, New York, Baltimore and Washington, D. C.

In 1952, Johnny Baumgartner was president of the Cattlemen's Association and asked me if I would go and represent them on this



Albaugh: trip. Of course, I was delighted with the invitation. We learned so much about how this big company operates. Everything was top cabin, we went to the best shows and stayed in top hotels. Earl Coke at that time was the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and I visited with him in Washington, D. C. He planned a trip to visit the Beltsville Experiment Station, where we spent a day after the Swift tour. Vira met me in Chicago; we went to Detroit and bought a new automobile. On the way home, we visited experiment stations in Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. We ended up in the Imperial Valley at Meloland. It was a real nice trip and probably one of the best honors that I've received.

Ellis: What were some of the major items you learned from this trip?

Albaugh: Are you talking about the Swift trip or the experiment stations?

Ellis: Both the Swift trip and the experiment stations.

Albaugh: Well, Ken, I was amazed at how accurate the Swift people are on buying and selling cattle and meat. They had to be excellent judges of cattle and they also had to be experts at the market because they were working on a very small margin. We were all impressed with the high caliber people that worked for Swift. They were very smart men. On this trip, Ken, I met Jack Miller, who was dean of Texas A & M at that time; I roomed with him so became well acquainted and we're real good friends yet. That was an important thing to me.

Ellis: What impressed you at those experiment stations in other states?

Albaugh: I found that we have a better Extension Service than any of the other states. Of course, we were treated real well and shown all the experiments that they were doing. One of the things that I enjoyed most, I think, was in Kentucky where they held a sheep tour. They were producing lambs in competition with us because they were using a Western ewe and crossing it on Southdown bucks. These lambs were on the eastern market competing with us. They had a real program on that. Also the horse farms in Kentucky were very interesting. We saw a lot of fine Thoroughbred horses and those old southern homes were real interesting. Of course I met experiment station people and specialists in all those states and that was of great value to me.

Ellis: Reuben, you mentioned that people in California had a better Extension Service than the other states. Is there anything you can put your finger on?

Albaugh: Why it is better?

Ellis: Yes, why does California have a better Extension Service?



Albaugh: I think the first thing is that we probably have better trained people and pay them more money than they do in the other states. In addition, I think we have more freedom or liberty to carry out our programs and we have a better administration.

Ellis: What value would you put on our being able to staff more people at the local level versus a county agent alone in other states?

Albaugh: As you know, in California, we have specialists (farm advisors) in almost every county. In other states there is one man per county who has to do everything and, of course, he can't. Their specialists come out from the departments and conduct meetings for them, and I don't think that's the way to do it. An effective Extension program cannot be developed solely from the state level; local participation is necessary.

#### Other Visits

Ellis: Tell us about your visits to other states, Reuben.

Albaugh: Over the years I was invited to participate in livestock programs in the following states:

Oregon--I was principal speaker at Oregon State University's Beef Cattle Day two times. I also participated in their economic conference.

Washington--I graded bulls at their first feedlot test and sale.

Montana--Visited the experiment station at Miles City on two different occasions to become familiar with their crossbreeding program and feedlot testing of bulls for rate and economy of gain.

Colorado--Graded bulls at their first sale where this evaluation program was instituted. I was the main speaker at the University's beef cattle day and spoke on crossbreeding. Also participated in the Hereford Congress at Colorado Springs.

Arizona--Discussed "weight vs. shape" as it pertains to beef cattle selection at the annual meeting of Performance Registry International.

Nevada--Graded bulls for sale held at Elko, Nevada. Was principal speaker at their cattlemen's meeting and discussed the history and evolution of the horse.



Albaugh: Hawaii--As previously mentioned, one year I judged the 4-H fat steer roundup. I was invited to speak at their beef cattle improvement association's annual meeting to discuss improved breeding programs; also graded cattle on members' ranches.

Ellis: Tell us about your participation in the Hereford Congress at Colorado?

Albaugh: In 1952, I was invited by Paul Pattengale to speak at the Hereford Congress at Colorado Springs. John Crowe of Millville; Drs. Stonaker and Washburn of Colorado State University and I were on a panel. Stonaker was developing the Brae Arden strain of Hereford cattle which have become a popular strain of high-performing cattle. In 1952 they weren't the type that most breeders wanted. They were big, little plain headed and somewhat leggy. I was asked to make a comment about these cattle, and I made the statement, "If you want to buy a poor bull, buy a big one." That phrase caught on and was used many times when we were emphasizing the elimination of compressed cattle.

#### Improving the Image of the University

Ellis: Reuben, in a career as long as yours and many years to go yet, there have to be some unusual or humorous incidents that have happened which also may emphasize the importance of improving the image of the University.

#### Grading

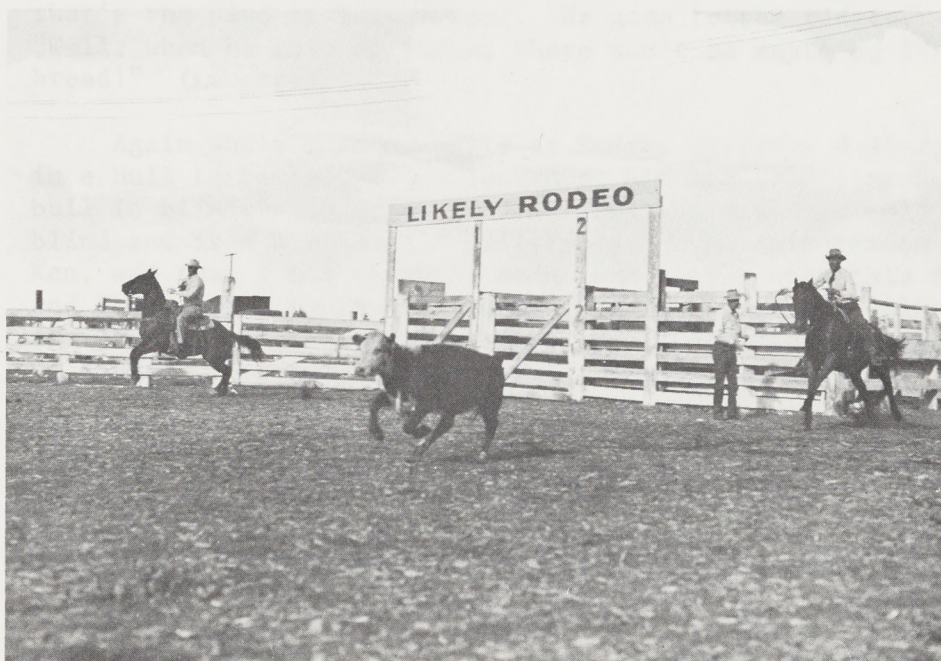
Albaugh: I remember one interesting thing that happened while grading bulls at the Red Bluff Bull Sale. We had just put a grade on one bull and he started walking out of the arena. I looked over and felt there was something wrong with the bull. I stopped the showman and said, "I want to take another look at this bull." On examination, he only had one testicle. This was an important observation because this bull had already gone through the tough sifting committee. "Let's have the veterinarian," I stated. Joe Giambioni came in and announced that the bull had one testicle. Everyone was very impressed by this discovery.

A funny story, Ken, in connection with the Red Bluff Bull Sale involves Paul "Pat" Pattengale. He helped grade bulls at this sale for many years. This incident happened the first year he assumed





Bull graders at the Red Bluff Bull Sale, 1960. Left to right: Paul Pattengale, Carl Garrison, Rube Albaugh and Charlie Kyde.



Likely Rodeo, September 15, 1952. Albaugh, left; John Baumgartner, President of California Cattlemen's Association, right.



Albaugh: this assignment. Since Pat enjoyed celebrating at such events, I told him, "Pat, while we're grading bulls, whiskey is taboo!"

"Don't worry about me, I'll stay in top condition," he replied. After the grading on Friday night, Pat and some of his friends took in the town. About 12 midnight, Frank Rue, Don Smith, Carl Garrison and I were in the Palomino Room having a nightcap. A policeman walked in and handed me a watch, saying, "This belongs to your gradin' partner."

The next morning I was leaving the old Tremont Hotel when I met Pat coming in the door. I said, "How're you feeling, Pat?"

"Friendly," was his reply.

"What time is it?"

"Rube, I lost 'er."

"Would this be your watch?"

"Yeah, that's it. How'd you get it?"

I told him the policeman had brought it to me and the only reason he knew it belonged to Pat was because of the honorary fraternity keys that were on the watch chain. Pat was a real student, Ken.

Another time was at the Modoc Bull Sale, which I graded for seventeen years by the way. This real wild bull came through the arena and broke the fence down. Somebody yelled, "How did you grade him?" I said, "I gave him a three-plus." The fellow said, "Why'd you do that?" I said, "Because he's wild." He replied, "Well, that's the kind of bull I want. He goes to the ridges." And I said, "Well, when he gets up there, there won't be anything for him to breed!" (Laughter.)

Again while grading bulls at Modoc, Clarence Dudley brought in a bull to be judged. I looked at him and told Clarence, "This bull is blind." He said, "I don't believe you." I told him, "He's blind and it's a vitamin A deficiency." The only reason I knew it, Ken, was that I had recently seen some cattle with this deficiency and I knew what their eyes looked like and how they walked. So again we called the veterinarian, and it was diagnosed a blind bull. Of course, that made a great impression on the audience.

#### Judging

Albaugh: Once I was judging horses at Hollister and was about ready to place



Albaugh: them. They were all lined up and I was going back to the microphone to give my reasons for placings when I noticed something was wrong with the eye of one of these horses. It didn't look just right.

Ellis: I walked over and took another look at it and said to the fellow holding the horse, "Is there something wrong with this horse's eye?" His hand started shaking and he said, "Yes." Then I could see that the horse was blind in the one eye and I said, "You know I can disqualify you for this, send you back to the barn, or I can put you at the bottom of the class, whichever you want. "Well," he said, "that's all right, I can go to the bottom of the class." "But," I said, "I'm going to have to tell the audience why I placed this horse last."

The fellow said, "I've shown this horse in about five shows this year, and nobody's ever noticed this eye condition."

Ellis: When going to the headquarters that night to sign the judging papers, Al Silva who was in charge of the horse section of the fair, said, "Rube, you were pretty sharp finding that blind horse today."

Albaugh: "Yes," I said, "I was lucky."

Al replied, "That fellow asked me this morning if he should show that horse and I said 'Yes, go ahead and show him; let's see if that expert from Davis can find it.'" (Laughter.)

Ellis: And he did (laughter).

Albaugh: I saw Al Silva again when I judged horses this year at the Hollister Fair. He said, "Rube, do you know that fellow has never exhibited here since you found that blind horse. He must have gotten mad at me because I told him to show his horse." Isn't that something?

Ellis: Now, Reuben, what happened at Angels Camp?

Albaugh: (Laughter) As you know, Ken, I was very active for many years judging fairs all over the country. So I got a lot of experience and enjoyed doing this.

Albaugh: Yes, there's certainly opportunity. I think I was a livestock specialist. Farm Advisor Dan Irving was always helpful in my judging assignments in Calaveras County. Once while judging cattle at Angels Camp there was a dentist who had a string of cattle. This was during the time when we were trying to get away from compressed cattle. He brought in a junior calf that was rather small and wooly. This animal had been winning in a number of shows. I put him at the bottom of the class and told him why. The dentist complained considerably about this placement,



Albaugh: each time he'd bring in another class. Finally I said, "Doc, you pull the teeth and I'll judge these cattle!" (Laughter) From then on we got along fine.

Ellis: Another story that you told me one time and I think has a phrase in it which characterizes your contribution as a prime mover. This is the one about "get them on the steel." Would you tell us that story, again?

Albaugh: (Laughter) This occurred in Monterey County. A fellow by the name of Heman Eade was selling some cattle and the cow buyer was late in arriving at the ranch. These cattle were shrinking every minute and Heman was getting very nervous. When he saw the buyer coming about half a mile away, he called to his men and said, "Get them on the steel, boys, get them on the steel." We used this expression at times to get a meeting started.

Ellis: You judged many fairs and shows, some big ones. What value was this to your Extension career and to the University?

Albaugh: In those days I think it was important that someone from the University perform these judging assignments. This showed the public we knew something about phenotype in animals. Then, too, the show ring is where type was originally established, so this made judging important. There was also a certain amount of prestige connected with judging.

Ellis: So you were setting cattle type?

Albaugh: That's right. We were talking about structural soundness, WDA, masculinity and femininity.

Ellis: So you used it as a teaching tool as well?

Albaugh: That's right. Some of the classes were excellent demonstrations on type, etc.

Ellis: Do you think there is still opportunity for Extension in this area?

Albaugh: Yes, there's certainly opportunity. I think a livestock specialist should be able to judge livestock at a fair, and do a good job.

Ellis: What about the Round Valley Days?

Albaugh: One of the most unique livestock field days I ever attended was in Round Valley, Mendocino County, near the village of Covelo--Sparky's and Glenn Spurlock's hometown.



Albaugh: The meeting was always held at Mart Hurt's Ranch. The morning programs consisted of talks and demonstrations. A barbecue was served at noon after which prizes for various contests were awarded. At 4:00 p.m. the women and kids were told to go home. The men then proceeded to have another barbecue with all it's trimmings.

The evening was spent toasting and telling stories. John Rohrbaugh, banker and cattleman, was master of ceremonies. Henry Schacht was the main speaker at one of these meetings. He gave an excellent talk on the importance of good public relations. Dr. McKay arrived late for one of the evening programs and they dunked him in the horse trough.

Such were the days in Round Valley.

#### Hollister Ranch

Ellis: What about the Hollister Ranch, Rube?

Albaugh: This is quite a story, Ken. The Hollister Ranch is located in Santa Barbara County, and it is composed of thirty-seven thousand acres along the coast. It was bought in the early days, for about a dollar an acre, by Jim Hollister's father. Jim had been a state senator; they called him Gentleman Jim. He was eighty-four years old when I met him. He was a Stanford graduate and so was his wife. He called me on the phone and said, "I'd like to have you come down and analyze my operation." He said, "You're the only man in California that I trust." "Mr. Hollister," I said, "I'd be glad to do that but it's out of my territory so you'll have to contact somebody in Berkeley. I recommend that you call John McElroy." Well, he did and in a few days John McElroy called me and said, "Go down and do that job." I made an appointment with Jim Hollister and drove down.

This ranch is seventeen miles north of Gaviota, a little town that the Hollisters own. I drove up to this ranch and Mr. Hollister came out of the house and greeted me in a very gentlemanly way. He said, "Come in the house, I want you to meet my wife." I went in the house and met Mrs. Hollister. She said, "I'm eighty-four years old" and she said, "you're not going to stay here tonight. I'm not even going to cook for you! I quit doing that ten years ago." "Well," I said, "I don't blame you, Mrs. Hollister." And I said, "Where am I going to eat?" She said, "With Joe." And I said, "Who's Joe?" And she said, "That's our son." She said, "Jim will show you where he lives." So we went outside and Jim said, "Take this road and go down there and Joe will be expecting you." So I went down to this house and knocked on the door and as I knocked two big hounds rushed around



Albaugh: the corner of the house barking. Pretty soon a fellow came around the house, a glass of bourbon in his hand, and he said, "Are you Albaugh?" And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Well, you're knocking on a bedroom door."

Ellis: (Laughter.)

Albaugh: I said, "I'm sorry about that, I didn't know." He said, "Come around here and have a drink." I went around and his wife was there and had a drink or two and she said, "If you'll come in the dining room, we'll have dinner." We had a delicious dinner and kept talking about the ranch the entire time we were eating. Finally Mrs. Hollister said, "If you'll retire to the living room, I will serve dessert." While eating the dessert Joe said to me, "I hired a man from Cal Poly to make an analysis of this ranch last spring. He spent two weeks here and he wrote a seventy-three page report and don't ask me how much I paid him, because I won't tell you. Would you like to see this report?" I replied, "Well, it might be all right to glance through it."

I started to make a few suggestions on what we might do and he said, "None of those ideas will work." And I replied, "Joe, do you want me to go home tonight or in the morning? We're not getting along too well." He said, "No, you're going to work for my dad, you're not going to work with me. Tonight," he said, "you're not going to stay here with us." And I said, "Where am I going to stay?" He said, "You're going to stay in a hotel." I said, "Do you mean that I have to drive back seventeen miles to stay at a hotel?" And he replied, "No, we have one here on the ranch."

Ellis: (Laughter.)

Albaugh: So he took me up to this six-room hotel and told the cook to wake me up so I'd be ready to go at seven o'clock the next morning with his father. At seven o'clock Mr. Hollister was there and I hadn't even had breakfast yet. The cook didn't wake me up. Hollister gave him a bawling out for not waking me up. Finally we got started inspecting the ranch. This eighty-four year old man was terrific, tough and yet a real gentleman.

I spent two days visiting the properties, taking notes and discussing possible changes in management practices. Finally I said, "I've got enough information and will write you a summarized report. How many copies do you want?"

"Well," he said, "I want one, of course, and I want one for Joe. And let's have one for Janie, my daughter."



Albaugh: "Okay," I said, "how about the farm advisor?" (Mr. Anderson was invited to accompany me on this trip but he preferred not to because of other commitments.)

"Yes, make one for Mr. Sid Anderson; he's a fine man. Let's have him in on it, too."

So I wrote a report, Ken, and recommended a task force of UC specialists work with him on new management practices, such as Larry Booher on irrigation; Les Berry on range; Horace Strong on cattle, etc.

I didn't hear any more about this report or project for a couple years. One Sunday evening about the first of February, I got a phone call from Dr. Clinton Hollister of Santa Barbara. He said, "When are you coming down to sort my cattle?"

"Well, Dr. Hollister, I'm not coming."

"You told me you would when I saw you at Red Bluff."

"I don't remember seeing you at Red Bluff."

"Well, everything is all right," he said, "I've already contacted Acting Director Wayne Weeks, and you're supposed to come down and do this job. We have 300 2-year-old heifers, 600 yearling heifers and 77 bulls. We want you to sort them for breeding and replacement purposes." "Okay," I said, "but the only dates I have are on Saturday and Sunday."

"That's all right," he replied. So I contacted Horace Strong and Ray Geiberger who was the farm advisor for Santa Barbara, and also the father of Al Geiberger, the great golfer.

I flew to Santa Barbara and they picked me up. We went to the Hollister Ranch that evening. We stayed at the hotel, talking cattle all the time. The next morning, Clinton Hollister, Horace Strong, Ray Geiberger and I went down to the corrals. There were five cowboys waiting for us with 300 2-year-old heifers. They had good saddle horses; the cowboys were well-dressed and handsome. I could tell they knew their business.

Clinton said, "Can you sort these heifers?"

"Yes, we can sort them," I said. "I need a horse. See that Sabina horse over there? That's the one I want."

"What do you mean?"



Albaugh: "That roan horse; Sabina is Spanish for roan."

He motioned the cowboys and said, "Rube wants to ride this horse. He's kind of skittish."

"Will he watch a cow?" I knew he would because I'd been watching him.

"Yes," he said.

That's all I wanted to know. He got off and said, "How are these stirrups?"

"Take them up a notch."

"You want these chaps?"

"Buckle them on me." He buckled them on, and I got on this roan horse. I called the cowboys together and said, "I want the best gate man to tend the gates. We're going to sort these heifers two ways. One will be a cull bunch and the other will be a keep group. Whenever we sort an animal, don't let it get back in the herd. In that way we will be working each animal only once."

We started sorting these heifers and before we finished, a few neighbors arrived--Dean Brown, Glen Cornelius, Channing Peak and others. They came to watch these University experts sort cattle. The sorting went fine and the top heifers looked good. We weighed them and everybody was quite impressed not only with the cattle but with the sorting job. Clinton said, "Let's grade these seventy-seven bulls and I want the two best bulls selected to breed to our pure-bred cattle."

Ken, I wish you could have seen those bulls. There was every kind of a bull in that group that you could imagine. Some had one eye, others had one testicle, many bad legs, some were stifled. You name it and they were there. I rode up on the hill, looked at the bulls and selected the two top graders before they were corralled. We graded each bull and explained our reasons for the evaluation. Out of the seventy-seven head, about forty were retained for breeding.

That evening we went up to the hotel for dinner and this fellow, Channing Peak, kept following me around talking to me about cattle and horses. I said, "Mr. Peak, aren't you an artist?"

"Yes, I'm an artist, and I'm also a Quarter horse breeder."

"I know that because I saw you at a show up at King City. Do you paint and draw like Charlie Russell?"



Albaugh: "That shows you don't know anything about art."

"No, I don't know anything about art."

"Russell was not an artist."

"No? What was he?"

"He was a recorder of history."

"Well, Mr. Peak, he didn't make any mistakes."

"No, you're right."

We visited that evening and talked about breeding heifers at fifteen months of age to calve at two years.

The next morning we all went to another ranch and sorted 600 yearling heifers. We cut these cattle three ways--culls, those to breed at two years and those to be mated as yearlings. I was still on this roan horse and no cow could get away from him.

It took us until the afternoon to finish this job. As we were finishing up, a man drove up in a big Cadillac. This was Jack Hollister, a state senator and part owner of the ranch. Clinton stated, "Here comes Jack. We've got to stop everything and talk to him." Clinton went over, got a lap robe and put it down on the ground so Jack could step on a red carpet, so to speak.

Ellis: You're kidding?

Albaugh: No, I'm not. "What's going on around here?" Jack remarked.

Ellis: They were brothers?

Albaugh: Yes they were brothers. Clinton said to me, "Explain to him what we're doing. "We're sorting off the top grading cattle for breeding purposes," I said. "If followed, this practice will not only increase the quality of the herd but boost the production as well."

"Great," he said, "this has got to be publicized. We've got to get this in the papers. This is a practice that we should have been doing all along. Great stuff."

As we left the Hollister ranch that afternoon I thought to myself that those people would be good cooperators and really back the University's Extension programs after this. That is why it is important to have personnel who can demonstrate practical ability



Albaugh: as well as technical knowledge. If I had not been able to sort those cattle under those conditions and demonstrate that ability most cattlemen would have not respected the University's beef improvement program and personnel.

Ellis: Can you give us some information regarding the Sierra Foothill Range Station?

Albaugh: This ranch formerly belonged to E. Floyd Forbes. I had met Mr. Forbes while he was president of the California Cattlemen's Association. He and I both attended an economic conference held at Oregon State University in about 1953. Coming back on the train, we planned an economic conference for California which was held that fall.

It was during this era we were establishing field trials on the use of stilbestrol to increase the efficiency of beef production. Mr. Forbes heard about the program and wanted to know if he could cooperate. So we started a test on his ranch with nursing calves. While we were weighing and identifying these calves, I asked Floyd what he was going to do with this property. He said, "I have it in my will to give it to the University of California."

A few weeks later he called me to San Francisco to discuss how more hog production could be promoted in California. (Mr. Forbes was manager of the Pacific Meat Packers Association.) At that time he showed me his will and asked me to inform the administrators of the University of his intentions. That afternoon I met with Paul Sharp, Director of the Experiment Station, and Harry Wellman, Vice President. From then on they communicated directly with Mr. Forbes. Since there was a disagreement on the appraisal value of the ranch and inasmuch as Mrs. Forbes had a lifetime interest in this property, both parties agreed that the University should purchase it. That's the way the University acquired part of the land that is involved in the Sierra Foothill Experiment Station.

#### Science in the Field

Ellis: Rube, let's discuss some of your field research programs.

Albaugh: A program that I thought was a real important one, Ken, was selecting heifers on grade and postweaning rate of gain. You remember this one?

Ellis: Yes.

Albaugh: I attended a meeting at the Squaw-Butte Experiment Station at Burns, Oregon, where they demonstrated that steers out of heifers selected



Albaugh: by this method gained a quarter of a pound more per head per day in the feedlot than the controls. Norman Nichols who was farm advisor for Modoc County was with me and I said to him, "We ought to go back to California and put this program on." He agreed. "I'll get my brother Albert to cooperate and you get somebody, Norm."

"I'll get Jack Rice," he replied. Jack Rice was the first to start this selection project and Albert was second. All heifers were weighed individually at weaning time then fed to gain about a pound or a pound and a quarter per head daily for about 150 days. At the end of that time we selected on rate of gain plus grade.

At one time, Ken, there were over a hundred herds involved in this program. Where it was carried out properly, great progress was made. We held demonstration meetings to show results of this practice. We held farm advisor's traveling conferences to boost the project. At one time Sam Thurber had more herds in this program than any other farm advisor in the state. I had made this statement, "If you put Sam Thurber in a county in California, he'd make this program work." Sam worked with my brother Albert for a number of years. Albert won first prize on his feeder cattle for ten straight years at the Inter-mountain Fair at McArthur.

Ellis: What affect did it have on the weaning weights of his cattle?

Albaugh: Both weaning weights and grades went up and Albert eventually had the highest producing grade Hereford cattle in Northern California. This heifer selection program plus the use of fast-gaining bulls were the foundations for his success.

Ellis: Reuben, for a number of years, in fact dating back quite a few years, you've been involved in and originated the utilization of testosterone in beef cattle. Could you fill us in on where you got the first ideas and how you developed this program?

Albaugh: Yes. I got my first ideas in Australia. They had done some work on early castration versus late castration. When I came home I talked to the farm advisors about conducting some tests on late versus early castration thinking such a program would increase weaning weights. Several farm advisors established tests and we found that those late-altered calves were heavier at weaning time than the early castrates. When they went into the feedyard the early castrates caught up to the others.

Later on I read about a Russian method of castration where part of the testicle that produced testosterone was left intact while the other part was removed. We established a couple of these tests--one with Bert Crane and the other with Jim Sinton. Sedge Nelson also carried on an excellent experiment using this Russian method.



Albaugh: The veterinarians found this operation difficult to perform. The performance of Russian castrates was intermediate between the intact bulls and steers. We later established tests on the short scrotum method of castration. In this operation the testicles are pushed up close to the belly and a rubber ring placed below them. This Elastrator procedure is described in the oral history memoir of Jim Wilson who brought it here from Australia.

Ellis: This was first done with sheep, wasn't it?

Albaugh: That's right, in New Mexico. The first test on cattle was in Tehama County on the Cottonwood Creek Ranch. Eighty calves were involved in this test; one-third were steers, one-third bulls and one-third short scrotum. The short scrotum cattle out-performed the other two groups in many of the facets of production. This is one program the industry should be boosting.

Ellis: We haven't gotten the industry tuned to it yet.

Albaugh: No we haven't. But we have the information if anyone wants to put such a program into practice. However, before short scrotum cattle are produced, our grading system will have to be changed. Most foreign countries utilize bull beef and someday it will be done in this country.

Ellis: Reuben, what other types of research programs related to fertility did you work on?

Albaugh: Another was pregnancy testing to improve fertility. We held many method demonstrations on this subject. The first work on semen testing in this state was done with Dr. Perry Cupps.

One of the last field research programs I carried on in cooperation with Dr. Cole was the attempt to induce twinning in beef cows. We established tests in five counties. We used two gonadotrophin hormones to increase multiple ovulation: pregnant mare serum (PMS) and human chorionic gonadotrophin (HCG). Although we were able to produce some twins and triplets, the results were disappointing. These results suggest that further research work is necessary in this area.

The embryo transfer project has been successful in producing twins--this may be the answer in the future. The prospect of synchronizing fertile estrus in beef cattle by the use of the new hormones, the prostaglandins, shows great promise. If successful, this would have a great impact in the future of the beef cattle business because it would increase the practice of artificial insemination and the use of high-performing sires.



Ellis: What about the "dwarf" cattle situation, Rube, didn't you do some research on that malady?

Albaugh: Yes, it was during the 1950's when the dwarfism syndrome was widely scattered throughout the western country. Dr. P. W. Gregory carried on extensive research studies in an attempt to locate or recognize a normal-size animal that carried this dwarf gene. He established a carrier herd of cattle at Davis, and Walter Markham of Salinas donated five cows to this project. Farm advisors throughout the state supplied Dr. Gregory with not only dwarf cattle but also known dwarf producers. He developed a profilometer to measure the contour of the head of animals in order to determine the ones that carried the dwarf gene. This technique did not accurately identify these carriers, however. The problem was solved by locating the families that carried the gene and eliminating them. Paul Pattengale (then farm advisor in San Benito County) assisted Dr. Gregory in his research work in California as well as in many other western states.

Ellis: Rube, what would you say was the most important research project you undertook?

Albaugh: Probably the most important research project that was carried on under my supervision while a specialist was progeny testing of beef bulls. Performance data which included weaning weights, rate of gain in the feedlot, weight-per-day-of-age (WDA), carcass cutability were collected on fifty-four bulls. In this study two or more bulls were bred to twenty-five cows each per ranch. They were then fed out at the McDougal feedyard and carcass data collected at the Armour Company in Dixon.

Ken, the results of this study showed that cattle that gain rapidly cut just as high in primal cuts as those that gain more slowly. This was a very significant discovery because top-performing bulls could be selected without expensive progeny testing, since rate of gain and carcass cutability are compatible.

Ellis: This project could not have been completed without the excellent help from many farm advisors and cattlemen, who collected the data, and John Pollak of the Animal Science Department who has recently analyzed the data. Cal Santare, who was then the supervisor of the USDA grading branch, was of tremendous assistance in the carcass evaluation phase of this project.

Albaugh: Ken, in carrying out a project of this size, you cannot sit behind the kitchen stove and read the funny papers--it takes hard work and know-how!

Ellis: Reuben, we've talked a lot about different projects throughout this



Ellis: interview, I wonder if you could summarize some of the top projects. Just go briefly through some of those and what value you feel they've been to the industry?

Albaugh: We were involved in a lot of them, Ken, and I cannot numerate them all.

(1) Pregnancy testing to improve fertility--many demonstrations were conducted on this program. (2) Breeding yearling heifers and ewe lambs were two programs that we emphasized even before much work on this subject had been done at the experiment stations. (3) We pioneered performance testing of beef cattle. (4) Heat synchronization--a lot was done on this subject, using progesterone. More recently we are demonstrating the use of prostaglandins. This will be a big boost to artificial insemination and production in general. (5) We pioneered the use of stilbestrol. (6) We conducted studies with selenium and vitamin E since there are several areas in this state where these elements are deficient, and it seems as though those areas are expanding. (7) Harnessing testosterone to increase production with short scrotum bulls shows great promise. (8) Selecting replacement heifers on rate of gain and grade; (9) Artificial insemination--we demonstrated many times the importance of this practice. (10) We pioneered freeze-branding for horses, cattle and hogs. (11) We pioneered the fattening of cattle on grass by using barley and salt. (12) Progeny testing of beef cattle was very valuable. (13) The horse task force that we developed to handle the equine program is also very important.

These are some of the important programs that I remember working on during the past half a century, Ken, that were pioneered during my time.

#### On the Firing Line - The Grass Roots Approach

Ellis: Reuben, you mentioned that as a specialist your closest contact is with the farm advisors. However, in developing and disseminating information you become well acquainted with the producers. Do some of these cooperating producers come to mind?

Albaugh: Yes, several do come to mind. Bert Crane, prominent cattle producer from Merced, and Jim Sinton, well known producer from Shandon, cooperated closely with us on two important projects: Russian castrates vs. normal castrates vs. intact bulls; performance of heifers vs. steers vs. bulls.

Ken Sexton of Glenn County and his partner Glen Eidman were excellent cooperators on selecting breeding ewes by using grade and



Albaugh: length of staple plus size. They also were very instrumental in furthering the crossbreeding of beef cattle. Other cooperators on the crossbreeding program were John Marble, Carmel Valley; Kent Bros., San Joaquin County; Roney Bros., Chico; Gene Rambo, Shandon; Matt Keegan, Colusa; Al Zaniboni, Williams.

In the record of performance program, Extension is indebted to pioneer cooperators such as Jim Sanders, Reno, Nevada; Bruce and Jim Orvis, Farmington; John Crowe, Whitmore; Les Fearrien, Hydesville; Harold Overfelt, Hollister; Arthur Nyland, San Juan Bautista; Charles Collier, Chico; Walter Markham, Salinas; Frank Day, Montague; Bill Borrer, Gerber; Ray Conway, Grass Valley; Richard Hamel, Herald; Ray Emery, Modesto; H. A. Van Sant, Maxwell; Max Cardey, Atwater; Eugene Holdenried, Kelseyville; Diamond D Ranch, Middletown; T. L. Chamberlain, Auburn; Frank Bennett, Chico; Baker Hereford Ranches, Le Grand; Clyde Hill, Cedarville; James Fourness, Pleasant Grove; Charles Wagner, Stockton, Ralph Ahl, Santa Rosa; Louis Francheschi, Lincoln.

During more recent years, Roy Carmichael of Vina has been a real loyal supporter of CBCIA.

Other excellent cooperators on educational projects were John Weber, Alturas; Jake Schneider, Sloughhouse; the late Walter Rodman and Carl Garrison; Albert Albaugh, McArthur; C. T. Hill, San Ardo; and Ray Conway, Grass Valley. Ray is not only an astute cattleman but also thoroughly enjoys Nature's handiwork.

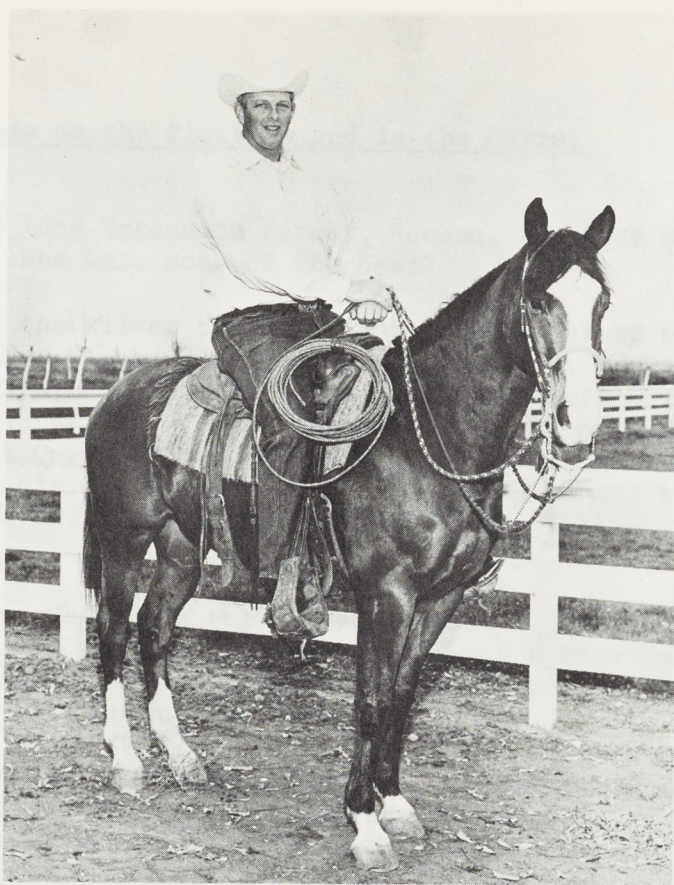
Other gentlemen who were very helpful to me include Herman Oliver, John Day, Oregon; the late Nelson Crow, Western Livestock Journal; and the late Hub Russell, known as the battling cowman.

Ellis: Reuben, over the years, you have worked with many purebred and commercial beef producers. Can you name a few of the outstanding breeders?

Albaugh: In the Hereford section, John Crowe of Whitmore; and Bill Borrer, Tehama Angus Ranch, Gerber, would take the prize for developing the outstanding Angus herd. My brother Ed, the outstanding Shorthorn breed developer.

For the large commercial herd, I would have to name Carl Garrison for the fine herd of Herefords he developed at the Paiute Meadow Ranch in Nevada. When this ranch was given to the University of California, I had the responsibility of counting the cattle for appraisal purposes. There were over 2,000 head on the property, including 100 bulls. I graded these bulls, and there was one 2-minus; three 1-minus and the rest were 2 and 2-plus, giving you some indication of the quality of sires that Carl used on this ranch.

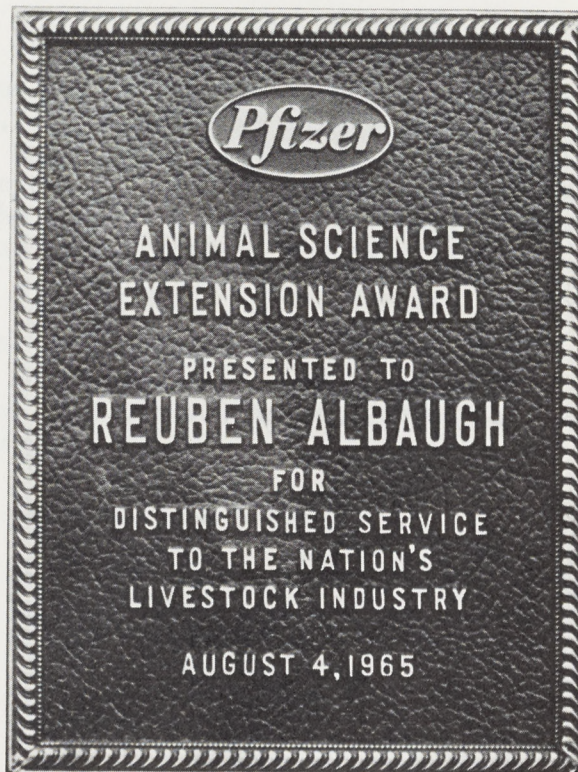




Tall in the Saddle. Bert Crane, longtime cooperator, friend and all-around top hand, who is an example of my many friends in the industry. It is champions like Bert who have made my 50 years in the livestock corral so rewarding.



B. H. Crocheron, first Agricultural Extension Director, "A Champion Leader of Men."



Pfizer Award, 1965. The most distinguished award I've received. The first Extension specialist west of the Mississippi River to receive this recognition.



Top Hands on the Platform and in the Corral

Ellis: In your long Extension career, Reuben, you have heard many cattlemen speak. Who were some of the best?

Albaugh: Some of the silver tongue orators of this group would have to be Gordon Van Vleck, Sloughhouse; Blair Smith, Montague; George Strathearn, Chowchilla. These cow folks were all real good communicators, but the man that impressed me the most from the platform was Jack Owens of Red Bluff. Of all the speakers I have ever heard, he had more confidence in what he wanted to say than any man I ever met. He did it in a real authoritative, interesting and humorous manner.

Ellis: I agree. When Jack talks, people listen. You can not only hear him, but you can see him, too (standing over 6 feet and weighing over 250 pounds). Reuben, who were some of the brilliant and colorful men you have known?

Albaugh: Professor B. H. Crocheron and Dr. George Hart would have to be tops in the list of people engaged in education and research. Roderick McArthur of McArthur and Ferry Carpenter, Hayden, Colorado, would top the list among cattlemen. Both of these individuals were successful cattlemen and each had a wide knowledge of the law.

The most versatile cowman I've known has to be Gene Rambo. He is not only a great cowboy but uses many scientific methods in the management of his beef cattle.

Colorful characters that I have known during the past half century are many. Two that stand out in my mind would be Harold Lynch of Tierra Redondo country, and Al Gomez of Lincoln, California. Lynch was a second Will Rogers, and a great cowboy. Both he and Al have great respect for the written word. Al is the only man I know that rode bulls and fought at the same time in Madison Square Garden. He is not only a great trainer of racing horses, but he writes poetry, books and is an artist as well.

In the banking business, the most brilliant man I know is Wendell Robie. He is an expert in the financial world and has a real sympathetic understanding of agriculture, having served on the State Board of Forestry for many years.

Ellis: I have often heard you refer to your uncle as a genius. Is it true?

Albaugh: R. C. Baker was a genius in the oil drilling tool arena, having had over forty patents of his own. In addition, he was an astute businessman; he built up a multimillion dollar business. His dress did not



Albaugh: depict his financial standing. For example, one morning he went to his office early and a new secretary who greeted him thought he was the janitor. She had him empty the waste baskets, which he did. She was very embarrassed when she found out he owned the joint!

### The Trail Bosses I Have Met

Ellis: Rube, I know you served under several State Directors of Cooperative Extension--tell me about them.

Albaugh: I had the honor and distinction of serving under B. H. Crocheron, Chester Rubel, Earl Coke, Wayne Weeks, George Alcorn and Jim Kendrick. B. H. Crocheron, my first director, organized the Extension Service on a sound, practical basis. His philosophy was to hire good men and pay them well. He was more or less a dictator. B. H. had the rare ability to forecast future trends accurately. He was applauded on the platform by foe and friend alike. After Pearl Harbor was bombed, on December 7, 1941, Director Crocheron was fearful that the Japanese would invade California. Therefore, he organized a state militia through the Extension Service. Each county farm advisor organized community groups where they were trained on war tactics. The home advisors held meetings in each community, where they demonstrated survival during an invasion. While in Salinas as a farm advisor, we had a calvary unit and Dr. Wayne Worrell, a war veteran and a veterinarian for the State Department of Agriculture, was the captain of the group.

Although Crocheron was severely criticized by many people for establishing such a program, it was effective in emphasizing to the people in these communities the seriousness of the war. I am sure they all worked harder to win it because of this militia movement.\*

Professor Rubel was a director for one and one-half years; he administered Extension similarly to Crocheron under whom he had been trained.

Earl Coke was highly trained for this position--he had been a 4-H club member, an itinerant and assistant farm advisor, as well as an Extension specialist. In other words, he came up through the ranks and knew the workings of this organization from the "grass roots". He decentralized Extension by eliminating the word "assistant" farm advisor and naming a farm advisor with administrative responsibilities "County Director". Here's how this name change was initiated. When Coke became director, I wrote him a letter telling him I'd like to visit about Extension the next time he came

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\* See Appendix B.



Albaugh: to Salinas. Shortly thereafter, we had a meeting in the Jeffery Hotel. After discussing with him the need of another livestock specialist, I suggested he drop the name "assistant" farm advisor and make one farm advisor a director of the county with responsibility of handling the administrative reins of that county. He agreed to the suggestion.

Coke was exceptionally popular, not only with University personnel but also with the farmers of California. One trait that made his administrative program so successful was his ability to make "accurate" decisions quickly. I will always be appreciative of my appointment as a livestock specialist under his administration. He had faith in my knowledge and ability in the animal science field.

Wayne Weeks was appointed Acting Director when Earl Coke took on the job of Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Wayne had the responsibility of carrying out the seven points of emphasis which was a USDA-initiated program. He was director during the 1955 flood and did a splendid job of organizing a task force to cope with this disaster.

Wayne was a big bull of a man. On one of his trips east he took a taxi in New York City. As he got in the cab the driver looked at him and said, "Are you a wrestler?"

"No, I'm a fighter."

"What's the name?"

"Weeks is the name."

"Oh, yes, I remember when you fought; I saw you."

Wayne really loved to tell that story.

George Alcorn became Extension Director following his very successful career as a marketing specialist. George's administration was a very democratic one. He utilized not only his administrators but also numerous committees to guide the direction of the organization. George had a great regard for human rights, displaying compassion for his fellow workers.

Jim Kendrick is the first Extension Director who has not formerly been connected with this organization prior to his appointment. His program to integrate Cooperative Extension into the main stream of the University is impressive. This is a movement that was long overdue. It is hoped that in this "corralling" process the Extension Service will not lose its identity and its "grass roots" popularity.



Ellis: Under Crocheron's administration, I understand annual Extension conferences were held.

Albaugh: Yes, they were held in Berkeley and lasted for six and one-half days. UC President Robert Sproul and Dean of Agriculture C. B. Hutchison usually appeared on these programs. B. H. opened the meeting with roll call. On Friday night we had dinner and a dance, and B. H. came dressed in a tuxedo. Everything he did, Ken, was top cabin.

These conferences were exceedingly well planned. They were stimulating, interesting and extremely educational. One evening during the conference B. H. would hold a fireside chat; these were always impressive. These events motivated you to do a better job.

Ellis: I think the story about the three Smith Brothers that occurred during one of these annual conferences should be included in your memoirs, Rube.

Albaugh: During these long, hard-working conferences, Ken, we would unwind in the evening by playing cards, telling stories, etc. One of these nights, Don Smith, Neil Derrick (then farm advisor in Tulare) and I decided to go to Oakland for dinner. As we walked into Tiny's Restaurant, Neil bumped into a man near the pinball machine. After exchanging apologies, Neil said, "My name is Smith." The other man introduced himself as Mr. Holman. Neil introduced his two brothers-- Don and Rube Smith. "Where you boys from?" Holman asked.

Albaugh: "We're from Modoc County; we own the Circle X Ranch and we just brought in a trainload of cattle."

"Where did you sell them?"

"At Washburn and Conden" (it was a big commission firm in San Francisco).

"Would you boys like to see the town of Oakland?"

"I don't think we'll have time," I said. Neil spoke up, "Yes, let's see her." Our new friend said he'd have to go get his girl friend who works for the Forest Service, then we'd go see the town. Don spoke up, "The Forest Service's fire program is ruining the range country." Holman stated, "Would you like to talk to my senator about this program?"

"I'd love to," replied Don. Holman called his senator and Don talked to him about what should be done regarding controlled burning and range improvement.

Albaugh: These administrators included Jim Fairbank, Lew Berry, Milt Miller, Clyde Houston and Jack Thomas. These Extension workers were all capable, loyal, dedicated and a great help to me, Ken.



Albaugh: With Holman as a guide, we visited many of the night clubs in Oakland, and at each one Holman would announce the three Smith Brothers were there. They usually honored us with a song. In one night club, they played "Red River Valley" and Neil sang it over the mike. This turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. When we departed, Neil invited Mr. Holman to come up to the Circle X Ranch to hunt. He said, "Just bring your gun, we'll furnish everything else. The Circle X is easy to find; just ask anybody in Alturas for directions. After your visit you may become a true Modoc'er."

Holman asked, "What's a true Modoc'er?"

Neil replied, "In order to qualify as a Modoc'er you have to make love to a squaw and drink out of Pit River!" I've often wondered if he ever made it up there and joined the Modoc'ers.

Ellis: You later visited his parents, didn't you, Rube?

Albaugh: Yes. During our discussion with Mr. Holman, I found that his father ran a department store in Pacific Grove. I knew him quite well since he owned farming land near Watsonville. A few weeks after this Oakland sightseeing trip, I visited Mr. Holman and found that he did have a son living in that city.

Ellis: Besides B. H. Crocheron, who was the most outstanding Extension administrator?

Albaugh: The man that fits that saddle best, Ken, is J. E. Tippet. As associate director, he was Professor Crocheron's righthand man for many, many years. In fact, some people thought he made Crocheron look good.

Tipp was tough--real tough--and yet was generous and sympathetic. He was a stickler for details. As a humanitarian he had no peer. His advice on personal problems as well as professional difficulties was sought by many. For example, when Roy McCallum, farm advisor in San Benito County, returned from South America, he had contacted a very severe disease. The doctors said there was no cure for this malady. Roy contacted Tipp--and through Tipp's connections, he had an effective drug available within a few days. This is just one of many examples of Tipp's unusual ability to cope with serious situations. His knowledge of internal revenue codes was tremendous. In fact, at times the Internal Revenue Service sought his advice on "kinky" problems.

Ellis: There were also several Extension administrators who were in charge of the Davis specialists under whom you served.

Albaugh: These administrators included Jim Fairbank, Les Berry, Milt Miller, Clyde Houston and Dick Teague. These Extension workers were all capable, loyal, devoted and a great help to me, Ken.



Albaugh: I've got to tell you a funny story about Jim Fairbank. He accompanied us on many traveling conferences and/or livestock tours. One night after a hard day's work, Jim and I were sitting in the lobby of the Oroville Inn. A gentleman came out of the bar and as he passed us said, "You fellows don't look as though you're having a good time. Why don't you join me?" He continued, "I ran out of money and am going to the desk to get some more dinero."

When he returned, he stated, "I can recite any poem you might request." I said, "How about Dan McGrew?" He proceeded to recite it. I continued, "How about the 'If' story and John Barley Corn?" You know, Ken, that guy recited them all, and made our evening very enjoyable. After this entertainment, I went to the desk and asked the clerk who he was. He just owned the largest olive ranch in Butte County. Jim never did get over this man's ability.

Albaugh: Maynard Cummings, Assistant State Director in charge of the northern counties, was a great assistance to us in developing the proper protocol between the University of California and CBCIA.

#### Teamwork - From the Laboratory to the Range

Ellis: Reuben, when you came to Davis, how did you find the relationship between Extension and the departmental personnel? Have there been any changes?

Albaugh: Elmer Hughes was chairman of the Animal Science Department when I arrived in Davis. We were well acquainted because he had participated in many of our swine meetings held in Monterey County. He approved my appointment as well as Clem Pelissier's (Clem and I shared the same office for several years).

Elmer was a great public relations man. He would hold meetings around the state to inform people on the activities of the University. He invited me to go to many of these events, and I'm sure these gatherings helped improve the image of the Animal Science Department and the University as a whole. Elmer was production oriented; he believed more in applied research than in basic studies.

Jim Meyer was an exceptional administrator, and he was a real booster for Extension. He participated in our meetings and assisted in field research studies. For instance, he designed and cooperated very closely on the selenium-vitamin E study with beef cattle.

Harold Cole was an excellent administrator. He also appreciated Extension activities. He was very popular with farm advisors and was highly accepted by the industry.



Albaugh: The livestock industry had a high regard for Professor H. R. Guilbert and Dr. George Hart. Either of these scientists was usually on the program for the California Cattlemen's Association annual meetings. This type of participation by the University should certainly be continued.

Ellis: I agree. Now, Reuben, you played a very important part in encouraging Animal Science staff members to become involved in field studies and educational meetings.

Albaugh: Yes. We really kept them informed. They also conferred with us on many problems, especially Dr. Hubert Heitman. Although he wasn't very active in the field, he did appreciate our advice.

Ellis: I think that Dr. Eric Bradford is also a good cooperator.

Albaugh: I agree, but since I'm over the hump now, he doesn't pay much attention to me. Bradford's a good man, I don't question that and I think he's doing a great job. In fact, I recommended him as department chairman long before he got the assignment.

The late Dr. Mag Ronning's formal training coupled with his ranch background enabled him to be popular with the dairy industry. However, at the time of his tenure as department head, finances were extremely low due to University cuts in funds. This limited Dr. Ronning's contacts with the industry.

This group of academic leaders were all excellent administrators and scholars in their own subject matter field. They were sympathetic to and cooperative with all Extension programs. They were anxious to fully utilize the resources of the University in improving the quality of life.

Other departmental faculty members who gave generously of their time and knowledge in livestock Extension programs were: Graham Gall, Wade Rollins, Paul Gregory, Perry Cupps, Glen Lofgreen, Bill Garrett, Floyd Carroll, Ken Wagon, M. T. Clegg, Lee Baldwin, Bob Loy, Bill Weir, Jim Wilson, Bob Ashmore, Harold Cole, Jim Meyer, Eric Bradford, Warren Evans, John Pollak, Gary Anderson and Ed Price.

Ellis: I would say we have a very close working relationship with the Animal Science Department.

Albaugh: Oh, I think so, too.



Fragrant Bouquets (Awards)

Ellis: Now, Rube, you've received a number of awards and well deserved. We talked about one or two of these. What are some others that stand out in your mind?

Albaugh: The award that meant the most to me was the Pfizer Award which is presented by the American Society of Animal Science to the Extension livestock specialist that contributes the most to the improvement of the livestock industry. I'd like to talk about it for a minute, Ken.

When this award was first established, I was nominated by Paul Pattengale from Colorado. I wasn't supposed to know this, but he told me. The funny thing about it is that everybody I guess knew I had been nominated because I heard it from several other people.

That first year, I came out second. I was renominated for this recognition five times before I finally got it! And I was the first specialist west of the Mississippi to receive this award. It had been pretty well controlled in the East because the nominating committees were from that area. I know that Drs. Jim Meyer and Hubert Heitman strongly supported my nomination which I greatly appreciated.

I went to Michigan State University during the American Society of Animal Science meetings to accept this award. In addition to a most impressive plaque, I received \$1,000. I certainly hope that someday one of you newer specialists will receive this recognition, Ken. It's a real honor!

Ellis: Well, Rube, it's a national award, and there's heavy competition.

Albaugh: That's why a specialist is supposed to be a top hand in his field of work.

Ellis: You also received the Golden Fleece Award. We know you did quite a bit of work in sheep as a farm advisor and in your early specialist days.

Albaugh: Ken, I had two excellent teachers on sheep husbandry--Glenn Spurlock and Jim Wilson. They helped me a lot, and since I liked sheep we held quite a few sheep and wool schools. We selected sheep on staple length and grade of wool plus body size. I was greatly pleased to receive this Golden Fleece.

Ellis: Why, I think people characterized you as a beef cattle and horse specialist, didn't they, Rube?

Albaugh: That's right. I was never accepted as a sheep authority, but we did do quite a bit of work with the woolies. I would go to a sheep



Albaugh: meeting and somebody would say, "What the hell are you doing here? (Laughter) You're not a sheep man."

Another funny example of this, Ken, was the time Jim Elings who was then County Director and farm advisor in Sacramento County called me and said, "Rube, one of my cooperators has 3,000 ewes he wants sorted by our University system."

"Jim," I said, "I'm on sabbatical leave."

"I know, but I want you to come anyway."

Glenn Spurlock was then on the department staff and he accompanied me to do this sorting job on the Ben Howard Ranch. When I walked into the corral, Ben said to me, "Do you know anything about sheep?" I replied, "By God if I didn't know anything about sheep, I wouldn't be here. (Laughter) Get 'em in the chute and let's select them." When Ben and I meet, he still remembers this incident.

Ellis: And I think you're the only man that has had a special day commemorated at the Red Bluff Bull Sale.

Albaugh: I don't know, I might have been the first, but this honor really impressed me. I know that you had something to do with that, Ken, and probably Jim Westfall and some of the Owens were involved in arranging this honor.

Ellis: That honor was rightly deserved, Rube, in appreciation for the many years you graded bulls at that event. Any other awards that come to mind? I know the list is very long.

Albaugh: Yes, there were quite a few county cattlemen's associations that honored me, namely, Monterey, Lake, Placer-Nevada, Shasta, Siskiyou, as did the California Cattlemen's Association. The Modoc Bull Sale also presented me with an award. The Bank of America gave me a beautiful plaque for my contributions to 4-H and FFA youth programs. Being selected to have my oral memoirs recorded was certainly a great honor to me, Ken.

Ellis: Rube, I also understand you are a director of the Central California Federal Savings and Loan Association.

Albaugh: Yes, it is an honor to sit on this important board of directors. I was appointed to this position by President Wendell Robie, whom I had met at a ski tournament in 1929 in Auburn. I met him several times later at livestock meetings, since he was a member of the State Board of Forestry. It was not because of my knowledge of banking that Wendell appointed me when a vacancy occurred on the board of directors, but rather because he felt I was favorably known in the heart of California, especially within the University of California.



Albaugh: This has been an interesting assignment, and I have learned much about money and banking, especially through my friendship with Don Anderson who is also a member of this board. Don is a graduate of the University of California in business administration and is a very knowledgeable individual.

### The Long Look Ahead

Ellis: To shift gears somewhat and look ahead, Rube, what are some of the opportunities and challenges that you see for Cooperative Extension livestock workers? I mean both in research and teaching.

Albaugh: I think that fertility is the number one problem in our beef cattle business. The discovery and the use of prostaglandins, leading to our ability to calve these cows by appointment, is the big thing in the future. As I've often said, you could have them calve on Christmas Day in the afternoon. The use of these hormones will be a big boost to artificial insemination and, no doubt we can use top-performing bulls better and cheaper than we can by natural breeding.

These items have a tremendous bearing on the future of the business. I think when we develop more reputation cattle, it will also give us an opportunity to improve our marketing because people can sell those kinds of cattle on a price index, instead of saying, "What do you give me for this bull?"

My brother Ed has used this marketing method successfully. I call him the Robert Bakewell of the 20th Century.

Ellis: Yes. You're probably right.

Albaugh: Ed comes as close to it as anybody I know. He has been lucky and at the same time he's put science to work. More cattlemen should follow Ed's example and incorporate scientific methods in their management programs. The cattle business is tough because one has to buy on a retail market and sell on wholesale. When the prices get too high, the housewife boycotts beef and/or we import more from other countries.

Controlling this product from grass range to the cooking range appears to be the future trend in the cattle business. It could put some profit back into the business. Putting science to work and promoting this type of management are ways in which the Extension Service can be of assistance.



Ellis: How would you instruct us in Extension to do the kind of pioneering work in the future that you've done over the past fifty years if you were to leave us with your admonition and instructions?

Albaugh: If I were in control, Ken, the first think I would do is to appoint a program director. His responsibility would be to concentrate on programs that could be used to develop and disseminate information that would change practices to improve the quality of life on our land. And he wouldn't necessarily have to be trained in animal science or in agronomy.

He would have to be a thinker who could come up with original ideas, new twists to old things. He would make suggestions quite often on programs that could be undertaken. I discussed this idea with Director Alcorn and he was apprehensive of appointing a program director as it would take away some of the freedom from specialists and farm advisors.

As long as I've been a specialist, I've never had anyone from the administration come to me and say, "This is something you should do." I've had a few compliments on programs we conducted, but no suggestions on what I might do.

We should also get back to holding more method and result demonstration meetings which is a great way to teach. We should do more teaching in volume. What I mean is rather than doing it in one county, let's do it in ten or fifteen counties. I can see if Jim Kendrick would call in his administrators and say, "All right, I want fifty Extension schools conducted in this state this year. I want them in cotton, agronomy, livestock, etc. I want you to call in the specialists and develop this program. Then I want the specialists to go out with the farm advisors and get the job done. Let's put on a big campaign." Why, Ken, it would be terrific! And we have the horses to do it, too. We have in our livestock farm advisors a tremendous group of people, and I don't think we're using our resources fully.

Ellis: And that's the challenge that you see ahead of us?

Albaugh: That's the challenge, and in your present position, Ken, you have a great opportunity to implement such a program. As you know, we have some "top hands" as I call them--the ones that keep our Extension program in high gear. Then we have those that are somewhat methodical and need a lot of motivation. In hiring new personnel, they not only have to be well trained, but they should also have a practical approach in developing and disseminating information that is beneficial to the industry. In addition to these qualities, they must be favorably accepted by the farm advisors and members of the livestock industry. In order to be successful as an Extension worker,



Albaugh: you have to be well liked and respected for the knowledge in your particular field. If you do not have these qualifications, you cannot get much accomplished.

Ellis: Reuben, if you were a young man starting today, would you still consider Extension as a career?

Albaugh: If it was under the same conditions of fifty years ago, I'd say yes. Extension work, as you well know Ken, is a missionary job. If you don't like to help people, then don't get in it. But if you do get a kick out of helping people, this is an opportunity to do so. My mother always said she was glad that one of her sons did missionary work.

Ellis: Reuben, could we include one of your favorite letters received at your official retirement?

#### Retirement and the Second Go-Around

Ellis: Reuben, I know you will be celebrating fifty years in Extension in June 1977. A few years ago you stepped aside as an active specialist, but you haven't really retired. Tell us about it.

Albaugh: You mean why I retired?

Ellis: When you retired, officially.

Albaugh: As I mentioned earlier, Ken, because of the drastic reduction in the Extension budget, in 1967 many Extension workers were asked to retire. I told Director Alcorn, "George, I will retire early if you want me to but I'd like to have an office, a secretary, a telephone and traveling expenses because I would like to stay on and do some work."

"That's fine, talk it over with the department people up there." So I discussed it with Hubert Heitman and we went to Berkeley and made this arrangement and got it in writing.

There were two reasons I did this, Ken. One, I wanted to keep busy and the other was that I wanted to set a precedent so if an Extension person retired, he would have the same privilege of an office that the departmental staff enjoys.

Ellis: Reuben, at that time, I recall that Cooperative Extension staged a retirement party for you.

Albaugh: Yes, and it was a good one. The late Jack Herr, who was then Director for Placer County Extension, served as Master of Ceremonies



Albaugh: and did an excellent job. Farm Advisor Walter Johnson, Shasta County, represented the county staff and related my activities as a specialist. Julius Trescony represented the cattlemen and told about my contributions to the beef industry while in Monterey County. Animal Science Department Chairman Hubert Heitman expounded on my relationship and cooperation with the department faculty concerning research and teaching.

My son Glen was asked by the arrangements committee to present me with a going-away gift which was a complete set of golf equipment--everything a golfer needs to succeed! The thing that impressed me the most, Ken, was the fact that my entire family was in attendance, including Vira, my brothers, sisters, my children and grandchildren.

Ellis: Reuben, could we include one of your favorite letters received at your official retirement?

Albaugh: Yes--it would have to be the one written by Walter Johnson, farm advisor for Shasta County.

"Reuben Albaugh is retiring with the most effective and enviable record of service to county farm advisors that I have known in my service as a county staff member.

It is an honor for me to represent county farm advisors at this gathering. There is no need to send out a questionnaire to know what they would want me to express, but I hope these comments may at least partially express their feelings.

Reuben has continuously bombarded us with ideas, with enthusiasm, with inspiration, with encouragement, with praise, with criticism, with experience and know-how, and with dedication to the University of California and its Agricultural Extension Service.

His bombardment has been persistent and determined, for he has always wanted us to do the best possible job.

His persistence and determination were well demonstrated when he and I had an opportunity to fish the most unique place in existence. This was located on a high summer range--a spot where you could literally walk on the water and see the giant and colorful trout below. Rube finally hooked one, and after a long and mighty battle, he yanked out the monster only to have him go over his head and into the water behind him. Not to be outdone, Rube went right in after him--backward.

Persistence and determination are not the only attributes we admire in Rube. His honesty and frankness in presenting subject



Albaugh: matter is unexcelled. At a meeting in Redding a couple of years ago Rube was showing pictures of his Australian trip and came to the slide showing a new feedlot with a Harvestore. It was interesting to watch the Harvestore dealer and owners in the audience as Rube said, 'You can tell this guy is going to go broke, because he has a Harvestore!'

He was no doubt following the advice of William Shakespeare:

' . . . to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.'

Reuben Albaugh is retiring as a great and successful man, because of his own talents and his own accomplishments. But I believe he is even greater because of the successes he has brought to us on the county staffs. This is fortunate for us and for the rest of the Extension staff, as the respect for the University's Agricultural Extension Service and its effectiveness is based on the activities and accomplishments of the county staffs. Our opportunities for success in the counties will continue to be unlimited as long as we have people like Rube to help us.

Rube's continuous stream of help to us was not just in animal husbandry subject matter. He also specialized in teaching methods. He taught us how to hold field days and how to put on demonstrations; he provided us with visual aids and showed us how to use them; he helped us with our talks, with our schools, with our writing; he showed us how to conduct reliable field trials. He taught us and continues to teach us how to be farm advisors.

We in the counties have always had excellent working relations with the Department of Animal Husbandry. Rube really kept this situation in high gear so that we have had the most possible help from Department staff, and we hope we have been of a little help to the Department in return.

I do not care to itemize projects or topics or ideas or methods pioneered by Rube. Subject matter he promoted yesterday may be obsolete tomorrow. What will not be obsolete tomorrow is his dedication to the success of farm advisors and the resultant success of all concerned. We may not be as accomplished as Rube is, but we will all be better because of his presence.

One final comment, and a very personal one. I wish to express my own most sincere and heartfelt appreciation. Thank you, Reuben."

(Signed)  
Walt Johnson





#### REUBEN ALBAUGH

Reub learned to ride and rope—a tow head kid  
Ashiver with the chill of Shasta's snows  
Did daily chores that lesser men despise  
And breathed the pumice dust from Lassen's flows.

He learned to wire the gate when passing through  
And not to stop the team 'till done at night.  
Such work built character and perseverance—  
That any job to do's worth doing right!

These same traits in Reuben still persist.  
His drive you see in print or spoken word.  
If asking what he thought—you got the truth.  
Bit bald perhaps—but truth is what you heard!

His work has been his life—he got things done.  
His words were written down—he built to last!  
Because of him the cattle in our state  
Are better beasts than in the years gone past.

For all of us, the spark plug on the team.  
He's quick to credit those where credit's due.  
Reub has served us faithfully and well—  
A staunch and loyal ramrod for the crew.

Retiring, he won't leave his field of work.  
His chair and old oak desk will still be manned  
And we can yell "Hey, Reub!" to call him in.  
'Cause we will always need his helping hand.

—Glenn Spurlock

. . . . .

Presented to Reuben Albaugh, 1927-1967, at his  
official retirement. University of California, Davis  
August 25, 1967



## Horse Program

- Ellis: As you continued working, Reuben, what was your program emphasis?
- Albaugh: In addition to being responsible for CBCIA administrative duties (as mentioned earlier), I started devoting considerable time to horse production. In fact, Ken, we held a horse training meeting in your county. Do you remember that one?
- Ellis: I sure do, and it was a successful one. Speaking of horse programs, Reuben, when did you officially become the Extension horse specialist?
- Albaugh: Several years after my official retirement, representatives of the horse industry applied pressure to Director Alcorn so that Extension would provide more service to the equine industry. So George asked if I would head up the program. This I did, but received no salary. However, several months later through Dick Teague's influence, the University put me on the payroll and this is still in effect.
- Ellis: How did you get started and interested in horses and working them into an Extension program?
- Albaugh: All of my life I have been interested in horses. One of the reasons that my Extension horse programs were successful was because I had four very exceptional teachers. They were my father, Professor C. E. Howell of UC at Davis, Colonel F. W. Koester, who was in charge of the Western Remount Breeding Program, and Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the American Horse and Mule Association. In my interview with Julius, I have gone into detail on the U. S. War Department Remount Horse Breeding Program which was carried on during the '30s.
- Ellis: Oh, yes, I recall reading one of your publications on the Thoroughbred horse. Was that your first horse publication?
- Albaugh: That was my first horse publication, written in about 1940. Since then, Ken, I've written several other horse publications, including the one you're reviewing on Principles of Animal Breeding (horses).
- Ellis: Reuben, what do you mean by a "horse taskforce"?
- Albaugh: We put together a group of specialists and farm advisors who are experts in the various fields of horse production. No other university has such a group of experts. Besides myself they include:
- Ervin Bramhall, Farm Advisor, Ventura County (Horse Bowl coordinator)  
John Dunbar, Extension Animal Scientist, UCD (nutrition)



Albaugh: John Emo, 4-H Extension Specialist, UCD (horse safety guidelines)  
 J. Warren Evans, Professor, Animal Science Department, UCD  
 (physiology and reproduction; coordinator of horse teaching  
 and research)  
 William Fairbank, Extension Agricultural Engineer, UCR (pollution  
 control)  
 John Hughes, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, UCD (physiology  
 of reproduction)  
 Peter Lert, County Director, Santa Clara County (English equitation;  
 grooming; training; judging)  
 Edmond Loomis, Extension Entomologist, UCD (control of internal-  
 external parasites)  
 George McNeely, Farm Advisor, Alameda County (nutrition)  
 Alva Mitchell, County Director, Butte County (nutrition)  
 Ben Norman, Extension Veterinarian, UCD (diseases; vaccination  
 control)  
 Chester Perry, Farm Advisor, Los Angeles County (where and how  
 to obtain scientific and practical information)  
 Ed Price, Associate Professor, Animal Science Department, UCD  
 (behavior)  
 Carl Rimbey, Farm Advisor, Lassen County (history and breeds)  
 Jim Street, Extension Range Scientist, UCD (pasture management)  
 William Wood, Extension Economist, UCR (zoning)  
 Chuck Wilson, Farm Advisor, Yuba-Sutter Counties (nutrition)

Ellis: Reuben, how did you get the horse program included in the California  
 Livestock Symposium?

Albaugh: I suggested this to Gailen Martin about three years in a row, and  
 finally I told him, "Gailen, if you don't put this on at Fresno,  
 we're going to put one on our own. I'll get another bank to sponsor  
 it."

Albaugh: This brought Gailen to Davis and he met with Dr. J. Warren Evans  
 head of the horse section in the animal science department, and me.  
 We planned a suggested program for his perusal. He did not like it;  
 he thought it was kind of piddling. Nevertheless, he accepted the  
 idea--and this horse section is one of the largest branches of the  
 symposium. Influential individuals such as Carl Garrison and George  
 Strathearn also helped promote this division of the symposium.

Ellis: This educational horse program has been a strong influence on the  
 horse industry in this state, Reuben.

Albaugh: There's an old Arab saying, Ken, that Paradise on Earth is found  
 in the pages of a book, the arms of a woman or the back of a horse!



## Consulting

Ellis: Rube, also since your retirement, you've had several interesting consulting projects.

Albaugh: Yes, two of the most interesting assignments have already been discussed, namely, making an economic study of the sheep, wool and cattle industry of Australia, and analyzing the cattle operation of Ganadera Internacional, S.A. in Spain.

Other consulting clients were: Boccardo Cattle Company, Marysville; Windswept Livestock Company, Orland; Pacific Valley Cattle Company, Lockwood; Angelo Giusti, Robbins; Fred Kohlenberg, San Francisco; Lucky Livestock Company, Reno, Nevada; P.G. & E., Soledad; Ranch Services, Inc., Klamath Falls, Oregon; Animal Science Department, University of Nevada; West Coast Resources, Inc., San Francisco; International Securities Corporation, Sacramento; Attorneys Kroloff, Belcher, Smart, Ford and Norris, Stockton; Brace Ranch, Placerville; Bert Abel, Grass Valley; Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park; California Department of Transportation (Steven Anderson, Attorney); Attorneys Lerner and Adelson, San Francisco; Robert Thatcher, Newport Beach; Bob Parsons, Dixon; and University of the Pacific, Stockton.

The University of Nevada assignment was an interesting one. I appraised three ranches that were being considered for a research station. I also appraised a ranch that belonged to the University of the Pacific before they listed it for sale.

Ellis: Tell us something about your experiences as an expert witness?

Albaugh: I served in this capacity several times and found it to be a difficult assignment. Most of the attorneys that I was working for were not familiar with livestock and/or agricultural production. For example, during one of the cases, the attorney asked me what a female cow was worth. I said, "Is there any other kind?" The judge sternly said, "Answer his question."

In another instance I was asked to testify against a cattleman who was a member of CBCIA. I turned down this request, but was finally subpoenaed. Two hours before the trial commenced, it was settled out of court and this took me off the hooks.

In another cattle litigation I was called to testify on the practice of breeding cattle at an early age. Everything went along well until I started quoting data that had been collected at Clay Center. (This is the largest livestock experimental station in the



Albaugh: U.S. located near Lincoln, Nebraska.) Since I had not been directly involved in this Nebraska research work, the judge did not allow it to be included in the testimony. He said it was considered "hear say" data.

On the New Range

Ellis: You mentioned earlier that you had a barbed wire extension

Ellis: It's difficult to know how you have found time to have any hobbies, Reuben, but you do collect barbed wire, don't you?

Albaugh: Yes. I have about a hundred varieties, most of them listed and labeled.

Ellis: How long have you been collecting this wire?

Albaugh: About thirty years, Ken. I've got to tell you a funny story about this project. A few years ago Vira and I were invited to dinner at the Harry Laidlaws. I was seated by Mrs. Jackie Proett, the minister's wife. During the conversation, she said, "There are sure a lot of crazy people in the world. I just read where they are having a conference of barbed wire collectors."

"Well, Jackie, you're sitting beside one!" That was a good way to get acquainted with the preacher's wife!

Ellis: I'll say. You also play golf.

Albaugh: I played a little golf while in Monterey, but upon retirement, I joined the El Macero Country Club in Davis and now play two or three times a week. In the past two years I made two holes in one. I'm proud of that. This is an accomplishment that comes to few golfers. Clem Pelissier has made one, and one of my golfing partners has made one hole in one. Clem still says he can do anything I can do, but he has to learn to stay on the fairway first!

Ellis: Who are some of the other "pros" that you have gambled with on the fairway?

Albaugh: There's the long hitter, Art Hoff; Stubby Clement, the consistent player; Clyde Houston, the slicer; Harry Miller, the consistent winner; and down-the-middle Al Rizzi. Other convivial partners include Roy Bainer, Harold Cole, A. I. Dickman, Herman Spieth and Horace Strong.

Ellis: You're also quite a gardener, I understand.



- Albaugh: We mentioned earlier about Ken Sexton being a great cooperater on many research programs, Ken. Well, his sister Virginia Lilleland is our close neighbor and she has always kept me informed on the activities of the Sexton ranch. She and her husband Dr. Lilleland own a vacant lot between our two houses, and we've used this lot as a community garden for many years. Lil also took care of most of my horticultural problems. And, as you know, Al Rizzi is also an expert in this department.
- Ellis: You mentioned earlier that H. B. Richardson, former Extension Viticulturalist, was quite helpful to you.
- Albaugh: Hilton Richardson came to Davis as a specialist the same time I did. We became close friends. Over the years he gave generously of his time in preparing and fixing tools and equipment around our house. He is a champion mechanic. Ken, this guy has the most complete, unique workshop in all of California.
- Ellis: You're also a member of the UC Davis Faculty Club.
- Albaugh: Since arriving in Davis, I have been a member of the Faculty Club. During that time I have served on the Steak Bake committee for the past twelve years. This has been a very enjoyable assignment. Top hands that have served many years on this important committee include: Elwood Juergenson, Stubby Clement, Clem Pelissier, Bob Nash, Orville Thompson, Milt Miller and John Hughes.
- Albaugh: The first year I was chairman of this event, I invited Walter Rodman, who was then manager of the California Beef Council, to assist us with this barbecue. He brought his chuckwagon and cooking tools. In addition, he gave each of the committee members a big hat and a red bandana handkerchief. Since we had a few hats left over, I gave one to Vice President Harry Wellman (which he still wears when he attends Picnic Day) and one to Merton Love.
- Ellis: What about the Emeritus Faculty Club Group?
- Albaugh: I am a member of this group and am currently serving as president, Ken. We meet at the Faculty Club every second Thursday of each month, and there are about forty members.
- Ellis: What other hobbies have you undertaken, Rube?
- Albaugh: I play bridge--some of our favorite bridge players are Fayne and Lillian Lantz; Paul and Roberta Walker; Art and Marian Hoff. I also do a little writing.
- Ellis: A little now and then, huh?



Albaugh: A little writing now and then. And at one time we did square dancing but we're getting too old, so we don't do that anymore.

Ellis: Do you and Vira take much time to travel and visit your family?

Albaugh: Oh, yes. We have a real close family, Ken. Our kids are very congenial and all our grandchildren are smart and goodlooking. We all have a good time together; we have (laughter) family reunions quite often.

Ellis: In looking through your bank of letters and papers, there's a letter from your son, I think, at the time you received the Pfizer Extension Award that impressed me very much. Did you try to instill the same kind of values in the farm advisors you worked with as you did in raising your son to be a fine man and teacher?

Albaugh: I imagine I did, Ken, I never thought of it that way (laughter), but yes, I tried to impress upon my children to be experts in their fields, to work on projects that would improve society, and to be honest, hard-working, devoted and loyal.

Ellis: To be self-critical.

Albaugh: (Laughter) Yes, a fine idea.

Ellis: Rube, many years ago you brought a group of cattlemen to Davis to learn about the Bunsen burner, test tube and crucible--in other words, research. Tell me about it.

Albaugh: In the late '30s, I brought a group of fifteen cattlemen from Monterey County to Davis to meet the animal husbandry faculty and to observe the research being conducted on the campus. Cattlemen attending were: Jan Martinus, Ken Eade, Jim and Walter Bardin, Albert Hansen, Kai and Henry Silacci, Jim Riley, Dr. C. B. Outhier, Henry Hansen, L. D. Bardin, Grover Tholcke, Ed Smith, and Harry Taylor.

We parked in front of the animal husbandry building (at that time we could drive on the campus) where Silacci was already waiting. When we got out of our car, he came over with a bottle of whiskey in his hand and started passing it around (he was not aware that alcoholic beverages were not permitted on the campus). At that moment, Dr. Hart and Professor Guilbert joined the crowd and participated in the firewater activities.

Later in the day I said to Dr. Hart, "I apologize for my cattlemen's whiskey break." He replied, "Rube, don't worry about it; those people are taxpayers!"



Albaugh: By the end of the day, these Monterey County cattlemen had their dallies on the word, "research".

Ken, I don't know if these memoirs are going to be very scientific or scholarly. I especially want to thank you for the many favors and courtesies you extended to me over the years. I am particularly indebted to you for taking time from your busy schedule for this interview.

During the short time you have been connected with Cooperative Extension, you have made great strides, and I predict you will have a long and successful career.

Those hunting trips to Mexico--  
With Lone Gray and Old King too  
Call me back to home again  
When deer are in the blue

A college kid - Ambitious too--  
Alpha Zeta and ACR  
Both spurred me on my way  
When I dallied on a star.

Throughout the years they listened well--  
Top hands that gathered round.  
We learned a lot as they might tell--  
They're the best I've ever found.

Fifty years in the Extension saddle  
To better the world--my path--  
Of horses, calves, sheep and cattle,  
This could be my epitaph.

The plowmen's words were whispering back  
Through years of yellow pine  
I'm glad I joined the livestock pack  
And kept the West as mine.

Reuben Albaugh



FIFTY YEARS

Leaving the platform and corral  
To lay my pen away,  
I look back to yesteryears  
When "B.H." ruled the day.

Echos of my boyhood days  
Playing along the Pit,  
Bring back the smell of new mown hay--  
The sound of a bridle bit.

Those hunting trips to McAfee--  
With Zane Grey and Old Ring too  
Call me back to home again  
When deer are in the blue.

A college kid - Ambitious too.  
Alpha Zeta and AGR  
Both spurred me on my way  
When I dallied on a star.

Throughout the years they listened well--  
Top hands that gathered round.  
We learned a lot as they might tell--  
They're the best I've ever found.

Fifty years in the Extension saddle  
to better the world--my path--  
Of horses, swine, sheep and cattle,  
This could be my epitaph.

The pioneer winds come whispering back  
Through stands of yellow pine  
I'm glad I joined the Livestock Pack  
And kept the West as mine.

Reuben Albaugh



by Reuben Albaugh  
Extension Animal Scientist, Emeritus  
University of California-Davis, California

One of the most spectacular and unique California litigations over riparian water rights was between Pit River ranchers and Mt. Shasta Power Corporation (a subsidiary of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company).

The area involved was known as Fall River Valley, an Alpine area composed of about 70,000 acres of land. This section of the state is located in Shasta County about 80 miles northeast of Redding, and 75 miles southwest of Astoria. The elevation of this area is 3200 feet.

Three rivers run through this valley, namely the Pit, Fall, and Tule. Pit River heads at Spies Lake and Jess Valley of Modoc County and empties into the Sacramento River 20 miles northwest of Redding. At flood stages this stream has a capacity of 10,000 cubic feet per second. During the summer months, the flow may vary from 2 to 40 cubic feet per second. Fall River heads in the north side of the valley and is about 10 miles long. This river is fed by large springs coming out of the lava beds and Tule River. The average flow of this stream is 1200 cubic feet per second. Its junction with Pit River is at Fall River Mills. Tule River is about 3 miles long and serves the outlet of the McArthur Lake. Both Tule and Fall Rivers produce clear, cold water, while Pit River is a sluggish, muddy stream.

#### APPENDIX A

In 1919, representatives of the Mt. Shasta Power Corporation (hereafter referred to as MSPC) began buying land on both sides of Pit River, about 7 miles south of Fall River Mills, and about 2 miles upstream from this same city. Later, they purchased the McArthur Swamp (approximately 16,000 acres). Upon acquiring these lands, this company controlled the Tule and Fall rivers through riparian rights.

In 1920 MSPC began constructing a dam across Fall River, about 2-1/2 miles upstream from Fall River Mills, and a tunnel through Saddle Mountain for the purpose of diverting Fall River into the Pit One powerhouse. The tunnel and the powerhouse were completed on September 20, 1922.



by Reuben Albaugh  
Extension Animal Scientist, Emeritus  
University of California-Davis, California

One of the most spectacular and unique California litigations over riparian water rights was between nine Pit River ranchers and Mt. Shasta Power Corporation (a subsidiary of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company).

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Three rivers run through this valley, namely the Pit, Fall, and Tule. Pit River heads at Goose Lake and Jess Valley of Modoc County and empties into the Sacramento River 20 miles northwest of Redding. At flood stages this stream has a capacity of 10,000 cubic feet per second. During the summer months, the flow may vary from 5 to 50 cubic feet per second. Fall River heads in the north side of the valley and is about 10 miles long. This river is fed by large springs coming out of the lava beds and Tule River. The average flow of this stream is 1200 cubic feet per second. Its junction with Pit River is at Fall River Mills. Tule River is about 3 miles long and serves the outlet of the McArthur Lake. Both Tule and Fall Rivers produce clear, cold water, while Pit River is a sluggish, murky stream.

In 1919, representatives of the Mt. Shasta Power Corporation (hereafter referred to as MSPC) began buying land on both sides of Pit River, about 7 miles south of Fall River Mills, and about 2 miles upstream from this same city. Later, they purchased the McArthur Swamp (approximately 14,000 acres). Upon acquiring these lands, this company controlled the Tule and Fall rivers through riparian rights.

In 1920 MSPC began constructing a dam across Fall River, about 2-1/2 miles upstream from Fall River Mills, and a tunnel through Saddle Mountain for the purpose of diverting Fall River into the Pit One powerhouse. The tunnel and the powerhouse were completed on September 20, 1922.



Tom Connolly was the chief engineer in constructing this tunnel and powerhouse. In 1940 Connolly purchased the Dixie Valley property and became an influential breeder of Hereford cattle and Quarter horses.

When Fall River was diverted from its natural channel, the water level in Pit River receded 4 to 5 feet. Between September, 1922 and January 1923, the MSPC constructed a dam at the lower end of the Pit River pool for the purpose of maintaining the water level in this stream.

The Pit River pool is approximately 9 miles, starting at the town of Pittville and ending at Fall River Mills. The average depth of this pool is 13.53 feet, and the average width is 146 feet. The surface area is 149 acres. Tributaries to Pit River in Fall River Valley are namely: Fall River, Beaver, Shelly and Peacock creeks, plus the McArthur canal. During the summer months, these 3 creeks do not supply any water to Pit River. The McArthur canal is supplied water from Tule River. Roderick and Luther McArthur owned the canal. They also owned a prescriptive right for 67 cubic feet per second of water from Tule River.

It is interesting to note, when all measurements of Pit River were recorded, the lowest point in the bottom of this river 5-1/2 miles upstream, was 27 feet below the junction where Fall River enters Pit River at Fall River Mills.

As soon as the water receded in the Pit River pool and because of the nature of its channel, the ranchers sued MSPC for riparian rights to Fall River water. They also contended that the quality of the water in Pit River after the diversion had been polluted was clogged with weeds and was foul smelling. Expert water consultants for the ranchers calculated that if the Pit River pool was empty, water from Fall River would fill it within 24 hours, while it would take Pit River's summer flow 100 days to replenish the pool. They also found that the waters of Fall River were about 7 degrees colder than that of Pit River. Cold water being more dense than warm water, receded to the bottom of the channel and flowed upstream.

The first complaint by the ranchers was filed June 4, 1923, in Superior Court of Shasta County. The nine ranchers involved in this litigation, and the number of acres they owned were as



follows:

Merton & Birde Crum	116 acres
William J. Albaugh	410 "
Anna McArthur Estate	266 "
Luther McArthur	573 "
Roderick McArthur	330 "
Judge Crouch	30 "
Joe Sawyer	67-1/2
P.W. Bosworth	90 acres
Charles Stroub	84 "

These plaintiffs (ranchers) sued MSPC for riparian rights to Fall River water and asked for an injunction against diverting Fall River from its natural channel.

From the standpoint of a layman, a riparian right is the right of an owner of land that borders a natural stream or lake to take water from that source for use on his contiguous or riparian land. This water right is not based upon the use of water, and is not lost solely by disuse. It is important to know the definition of a riparian right, because only one of the plaintiffs in these cases used water at that time from the Pit River pool for irrigation purposes.

There are three different courts in California. Each county has a Superior Court, usually located at the county seat. It is the basic trial court in California. Appeals from the Superior Court generally go next to the District Court of Appeal. This court is composed of several judges. They review the record of the trial and determine if the trial judge used the correct procedures and principles of law. The highest court is the Supreme Court. It does what the District Court of Appeal does - but only steps into cases with important issues. It is composed of seven judges who submit their opinions on each case.

The Crum case was the first one tried in the Superior Court of Shasta County early in 1925. In this case the jury failed to agree and there was no verdict. It went to trial again, and judgement was given in favor of Crum. It was tried twice more in the Superior Court, and Crum was awarded \$32,100 and \$22,000 damages respectively.



The Albaugh case went to court in December, 1927. Albaugh was awarded \$65,000 in damages. MSPC was enjoined from using any water from Fall River until Albaugh's judgement was satisfied.

The case was appealed to the Third District Court of Appeal on May 25, 1931, and the judgement was reversed. The trial court was instructed to award only nominal damages, and the injunction was modified so that the power company could use water from Fall River providing the Pit River pool remained at normal level.

The Third District Court of Appeal granted a rehearing on June 24, 1931. On October 21, 1931, the Third District Court of Appeal again reversed the judgement, but omitted instructions to the trial court.

In May, 1932, a second trial was held in the Superior Court of Shasta County in which the Albaugh and Crum cases were consolidated. Albaugh was awarded damages of \$96,300 and Crum was awarded \$22,000.

In August, 1933, the Supreme Court of California reversed the decision of the Superior Court and sent the case back for a new trial on the issue of the amount of damages alone.

On March 1, 1934, the Supreme Court expanded on their prior opinion, and their prior opinion on damages still stood.

MSPC, June, 1935, applied to the railroad commission for authority to use enough water from Fall and Tule Rivers to maintain Pit River pool. The commission turned down this application.

The third trial was held March, 1936, in the Superior Court of Shasta County. The Crum and McArthur cases were consolidated with the Albaugh case. Damages were awarded as follows:

Merton Crum, et al	\$22,275	March, 1936
William J. Albaugh	65,000	" "
Anna McArthur Estate	20,771	February, 1936
Roderick "	56,388	" "
Luther "	91,121	" "
	<u>\$255,555</u>	TOTAL

Apparently MSPC paid the testimony, so again, money talked. They both appraised the Albaugh property between \$30,000 and \$35,000 - a ridiculously low valuation.

Witnesses for the plaintiffs were W.J. Albaugh, P.W.



On November 4, 1937, the Supreme Court upheld the judgment which each rancher had won in Shasta County Superior Court. The Supreme Court's decision was written by Justice J. Curtis with Justices Shenk, Waste, Nourse, Seawell, Edmonds and Sturtevent concurring. The decision stated that the ranchers' land was riparian to Fall River water during the summer months and that the diversion of Fall River caused the Pit River pool to become polluted.

The Bosworth, Crouch, Sawyer and Stroub cases never went to trial. They were settled out of court on the basis of the evidence of the other five cases and were awarded the following damages:

P.W. Bosworth	\$3,022	April 2, 1940
J.R. Crouch	3,390	March , 1940
Jos. C. Sawyer	14,720	March , 1940
Chas. Stroub	<u>5,159</u>	March , 1940
	<u>\$26,291</u>	TOTAL

When court costs and interest at the rate of 7% were added, the ranchers received approximately \$322,000 in damages.

It is interesting to note that Sawyer, Stroub and portions of Bosworth's land bordered on Beaver Creek which was a branch of the Pit River pool.

According to a survey, about 3,000 acres of land in Fall River Valley are riparian to Pit River.

Other ranchers whose lands bordered Pit River and/or Beaver Creek who did not enter into this litigation are as follows: Fred and Dietrick Knoch, Alice and Harve Wendt, and J.A. Hollenbeak. Witnesses for the defendants (MSPC) were J.W. Hollenbeak, Dietrick and Fred Knoch, H.B. Manning, Harry Horr, Earl McKenzie and Roy Owens.

It is interesting and must have been disappointing to the rancher litigants that McKenzie and Owens, prominent cattlemen of Red Bluff, would testify against their neighboring Shasta County cattlemen.

Apparently MSPC paid them well for this testimony, so again, money talked. They both appraised the Albaugh property between \$30,000 and \$35,000 - a ridiculously low valuation.

Witnesses for the plaintiffs were W.J. Albaugh, P.W.



Bosworth, Merton Crum, Jas. R. Day, Louis Joerger, W.H. Lee, F.W. Loosely, Roderick McArthur, M.D. Nicholson, Perry Opdyke, J.C. Sawyer, Merton Callison, Leland Anders and Alvin Haynes.

Judges who presided over these cases in the Superior Court of Shasta County were Walter Herzinger and Albert Ross. Attorneys for the same cases were as follows:

Pit River Ranchers:

The firm of Carter & Smith

Arthur C. Huston

Jesse W. Carter

Annette Abbott Adams

The firm of Huston, Huston & Huston

The firm of Carter & Barrett

Mt. Shasta Power Corporation:

Thomas J. Stroub

The firm of Chenoweth & Leininger

William B. Bosley

The firm of Goodfellow, Eells, Moore & Orrich

A.E. Chandler (of Atheam, Chandler & Farmer)

The firm of Jones & Dall

The firm of Athearn, Chandler & Farmer

M.R. Jones (of Jones & Doll)

Orr M. Chenoweth (of Chenoweth & Leininger)

During these trials this powerful corporation used every angle in the law books in an effort to win this case.

My father told these two interesting stories that exemplify some of their "shady" tactics:

"I was testifying on the witness stand that my hay crop in 1932 was below average because of shortages of water. The MSPC attorneys submitted a picture of my ranch, stating that it was taken in 1932 which showed an abundant hay crop. When the judge showed me the picture, I immediately knew it had really been taken in 1909. I knew this because the pine tree in the foreground had been cut down in 1910.

On another occasion, Harry Horr, one of my neighbors, was testifying for the MSPC as to the temperature of the water in the Pit River. He claimed that he knew how cold it was because



he used to swim in it. I knew that he couldn't swim because I had saved him from drowning. When asked if he could swim, he admitted that he couldn't, but was in the river dangling on a rope behind a launch." When the jury heard testimony of this kind, it no doubt swayed them in favor of the ranchers.

During the 15 years that this litigation blasted through the courts, Jesse Carter was The "Bull dog" attorney for the ranchers. William D. Bosley led the fight for the corporation.

"Ramrodding" for the ranchers in this unusual water law suit was the battling Pit River cattleman, Roderick McArthur. Roderick was brilliant, shrewd, astute, and had a wide knowledge of water law. Working closely with him was William J. Albaugh, a tough, stout-hearted cowman that possessed that great will to win. They made a tough fighting team. They not only assisted Carter in the strategy of this litigation, but they also kept up the morale of the other ranchers and supplied the money to keep the cases current.

Most ranchers would have become discouraged and given up the fight for their water rights, especially when battling with large corporations.

After the District Court of Appeal had reversed the second judgement, I said to my dad, "Why don't you give up this case and invest the money you're spending on this litigation in PG&E stocks?" He said, "When I am gone, I don't want people to call me a quitter." The Pit River ranchers were made of sterner fortitude. Their pioneering experience and mountain environment prevailed in victory.

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I wish to thank Al Lewis, Law Librarian, University of California, Davis, California; and Paul Zappettini, law student at UC Davis, and Investigator for Blease, Vanderlaan & Rothschild, Attorneys-at-Law, Sacramento, California for their help. April 6, 1977.



The following is taken from an article written by Norman Albaugh in April 1942:

### WAR IS HELL

When Sherman said war was hell, he wasn't familiar with the modern warfare, or he might have called it "hell plus." The modern battle compared to a Civil War skirmish has length, depth and thickness instead of one long line of infantry. Besides the infantry with its high-powered, automatic rifles, this up-to-date meat grinder has tank troops, batteries of artillery, machine gun units, fifth columnists, while the airplanes fill the sky with bombs and machine-gun the innocent civilians. When the invasion starts, the whole countryside for miles around becomes a battlefield. The civilian population many times is in more danger than the regular army. This, then, makes this war everyone's war and not merely the army's and navy's.

The defeat of many of the countries in this modern war has been because their old time generals failed to adapt to this new type of fighting. The Maginot Line in France was supposed to stop the Germans but the airplanes and the parachutists changed all this. Countries who did not realize the three dimensions of modern war have in most cases been conquered.

### APPENDIX B

After the battle at Dunkirk, England was quick to see the real value of preparing against invasion for every military number in the book would be thrown against them. They knew that their army was kept in better how good and how well trained could not be in every place at once and that if they were to stop the Germans they must have a real strong force of trained citizens to back up the main army. To meet this situation, they started a Home Guard army composed of farmers, businessmen and factory workers - in fact, anyone who was not afraid to fight but was too old, too young or too deferred for the regular army. These citizens trained on their own time without money and furnished their own guns and ammunition. This training consisted of throwing hand grenades, of sniping, of camouflage, of blowing up bridges and roads - in short, guerrilla warfare--to keep the enemy at bay and confuse them until the main army could close in and destroy them. With over two and a half million of these trained Home Guards, England has not yet been invaded. They have found a way to keep the horrors of war from their land.

The questions now being asked in this country is "Can the wide blue Pacific keep the well trained Japanese from the shores of the western coast or will it take in addition a strong, well trained civilian population like the Home Guard of England to come with the logic and the breadth and the thickness of a highly trained, first class Japanese army and sweep them the mighty Pacific act as a Maginot Line in this land of the setting sun?"

S. H. Crochaxon, Director of Agricultural Extension of the University of



The following is taken from an article written by Reuben Albaugh in April 1942:

### WAR IS HELL

When Sherman said war was hell, he wasn't familiar with the modern warfare, or he might have called it "hell plus." The modern battle compared to a Civil War skirmish has length, depth and thickness instead of one long line of infantry. Besides the infantry with its high-powered, automatic rifles, this up-to-date meat grinder has tank troops, batteries of artilleries, machine gun units, fifth columnists, while the airplanes fill the sky with bombs and machine-gun the innocent civilians. When the invasion starts, the whole countryside for miles around becomes a battlefield. The civilian population many times is in more danger than the regular army. This, then, makes this war everyone's war and not merely the army's and navy's.

The defeat of many of the countries in this modern war has been because their old time generals failed to recognize this new type of fighting. The Maginot Line in France was supposed to stop the Germans but the airplanes and the parachutists changed all this. Countries who did not realize the three dimensions of modern war have in most cases been conquered.

After the battle at Dunkirk, England was quick to see the real value of preparing against invasion for every military number in the book would be thrown against them. They knew that their army and navy no matter how good and how well trained could not be in every place at once and that if they were to stop the Germans they must have a real strong force of trained citizens to back up the main army. To meet this situation, they started a Home Guard army composed of farmers, businessmen and factory workers - in fact, anyone who was not afraid to fight but was too old, too young or too deferred for the regular army. Those citizens trained on their own time without money and furnished their own guns and ammunition. This training consisted of throwing hand grenades, of sniping, of camouflaging, of blowing up bridges and roads--in short, guerrilla warfare--to keep the enemy at bay and confuse them until the main army could close in and destroy them. With over two and a half million of these trained Home Guards, England has not yet been invaded. They have found a way to keep the horrors of war from their land.

The questions now being asked in this country is "Can the wide blue Pacific keep the well trained Japanese from the shores of the western coast or will it take in addition a strong, well trained civilian population like the Home Guard of England to cope with the length and the breadth and the thickness of a highly trained, first class Japanese army and navy? Will the mighty Pacific act as a Maginot Line to this land of the setting sun?"

B. H. Crocheron, Director of Agricultural Extension of the University of



California, believes and sincerely thinks that strong state militia are necessary if the United Nations are to win this war. He believes this entire country should be as well prepared from the standpoint of a home guard supplementing the main army as England is. He further knows that patriotism alone can not win any war, that it takes in addition enthusiasm, action, training and preparation. Why does he feel the urge for such united action and real preparation? He feels this way not only because he has a wide, clear knowledge of world affairs but because he has been in Japan on three different occasions, which helps to supplement his decisions. Professor Crocheron has seen the Japs in their fields, factories and homes. He has seen them drilling and marching and has witnessed them on the battlefield. He knows how tough they are and he further knows that they are a genius for organization and that their methods of warfare will stop short of nothing in an effort to win this far-flung war. It is all, then, or nothing with the yellow skinned destroyers of the Orient.

In addition to this, history tells us that the Japanese have never been defeated in modern warfare, that to date they control over one fourth of the people of the world. They control the cotton and the ore of China, the hemp and the sugar of the Philippines, the tin and rubber of the Malayan countries. They have not yet got control of the spirit of the American people, which is now being aroused and is being supplemented by the organization and training of a strong State Militia.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor--in February, to be exact--Professor Crocheron wrote a plan for the organization of a strong State Militia for California. This plan was forwarded to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., where it was passed upon by the military authorities. It was found by these military scientists to be sound and workable and was returned to California with the suggestions that it be put into effect in this state. President R. G. Sproul of the University of California was then presented with this plan and after he had discussed with the Department of Military Affairs of the University, it was sent to Governor Olson, who, on the 24th day of April, issued a proclamation to the patriotic citizens of California asking them to enlist and enroll in such an organization in order that this state and its people would be more fully protected from the danger and destruction of modern war. Governor Olson authorized Agricultural Extension Agents, commonly known as farm advisors, to present the details of this Militia to the rural people of California in order that they might have an opportunity to enroll and receive military training.

Since April 24, these representatives of the University have been covering the entire state explaining this voluntary military organization. The enthusiasm and response has been great and this organization shows promise of spreading to many other states in the West. Only those who do not desire to fight or those that think it is a political movement have shied clear of this organization, which is copied pretty much after the Home Guard of England where anyone between the ages of 16 and 65 can enroll, where they train upon their own time and furnish their own guns and ammunition and do it without compensation.



The training that the recruits in this organization will receive is directed by Major General Walter C. Sweeney, of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs of the State of California. This training will consist of very little marching and manual of arms but a knowledge of caring for parachutists, blowing up bridges and roads and detaining and confusing the enemy through hit-and-run methods of guerrilla warfare will be the main curricula offered those who join.

Members of this military organization will wear uniforms consisting of sun tan khaki shirts and pants, black ties and belts, brown shoes and campaign hats. They will be either mounted or on foot and will know every inch of their country, will be on the alert at all times with their guns ready to cope with the type of invasion that might visit their section. They can not be removed from the county in which they are enrolled and they can resign by giving written notice to their commander in charge.

Already approximately fifteen thousand ranchers and farmers of rural California are enrolled in this organization and over forty thousand teamsters of the teamsters' union are next in line to enter this great defense and military organization. California is going to be ready for any type of invasion. This great rural army is going to be their last line of defense, which may mean the difference between victory and defeat in this all-out war to preserve liberty and freedom that the American people and particularly Californians have enjoyed for one hundred fifty years.



## BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF REUBEN ALBAUGH

Father: William J. Albaugh

Mother: Williamina Baker Albaugh

- 1901 Reuben Albaugh was born on a large livestock ranch near Pittville, Lassen County, California.
- 1916 Graduated from Pittville Grammar School.
- 1921 Graduated from Fall River Joint Union High School.
- 1925 Received Bachelor of Science degree in animal sciences, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.
- 1927 June 1 - became associated with the University of California Cooperative Extension - assigned to Monterey County as livestock farm advisor.
- 1927 September 23 - married Vera McKenzie.
- 1928 Organized the Monterey County Cow Testing Association (now known as the Dairy and Improvement Association, DRIA).
- 1929 Daughter Barbara was born in Salinas, Monterey County.
- 1931 Son Glen was born in Salinas, Monterey County.
- 1936 Organized the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association.
- 1936 Initiated demonstrations on the value of breeding heifer calves at 15 months of age. This program led into crossbreeding of beef cattle. Both of these practices are now widely used to increase efficiency of beef production.
- 1947 Visited the King Ranch in Texas, to study the breeding of Quarter horses, Brahman and Charolais cattle.
- 1947 Completed six years of research which resulted in the use of Strain 19 vaccine to control brucellosis in beef and dairy cattle.
- 1947 Visited the USDA experimental station at Miles City, Montana, to study performance testing of beef cattle.
- 1949 Appointed as Extension Animal Husbandman at UC Davis, with responsibility for the livestock program in the northern counties.

## APPENDIX C



## BIOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF REUBEN ALBAUGH

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- 1927 June 1 - became associated with the University of California Cooperative Extension - assigned to Monterey County as livestock farm advisor.
- 1927 September 23 - married Vira McKenzie.
- 1928 Organized the Monterey County Cow Testing Association (now known as the Dairy Herd Improvement Association, DHIA).
- 1929 Daughter Barbara was born in Salinas, Monterey County.
- 1931 Son Glen was born in Salinas, Monterey County.
- 1936 Organized the Monterey County Cattlemen's Association.
- 1936 Initiated demonstrations on the value of breeding yearling heifers at 15 months of age. This program led into crossbreeding of beef cattle. Both of these practices are now widely used to increase efficiency of beef production.
- 1947 Visited the King Ranch in Texas, to study the breeding of Quarter horses, Brahman and Charolais cattle.
- 1947 Completed six years of research which resulted in the use of Strain 19 vaccine to control brucellosis in beef and dairy cattle.
- 1947 Visited the USDA experiment station at Miles City, Montana, to study performance testing of beef cattle.
- 1949 Appointed as Extension Animal Husbandman at UC Davis, with responsibility for the livestock program in the northern counties.



- 1950 The newsletter, "Roundup of Livestock Facts," was instituted and was to be used by livestock farm advisors in California.
- 1952 First publication as a livestock specialist was printed, entitled "Beef Cattle Feeding and Handling Equipment." This inspired the writing of numerous other University publications.
- 1954 Selected as the California Cattlemen's Association representative to attend the Swift and Company tour to observe Swift's eastern establishments.
- 1954 Addressed the National Hereford Congress in Colorado.
- 1956 Judged the 4-H roundup cattle at University of Hawaii and assisted their animal science department in establishing a record of performance and grading program on several ranches.
- 1959 February 20 - The California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA) was incorporated. This was an outgrowth of the UC Agricultural Extension record of performance program.
- 1960 The textbook Beef Cattle Production was printed by Macmillan Company of New York.
- 1960 Feature speaker at the Manyberries experiment station Beef Cattle Field Day in Canada.
- 1963 Speaker at Oregon State University's Beef Cattle Day.
- 1964 Spent 2½ months on leave to Australia. As a result, the USDA publication, "The Livestock and Meat Industry of Australia" was published.
- 1964 Completed 14 years of grading bulls at the Red Bluff Bull Sale.
- 1965 Was recipient of the American Society of Animal Science Extension Award, sponsored by Charles Pfizer Company.
- 1966 Speaker at the Performance Registry International annual meeting in Arizona.
- 1966 Visited beef cattle ranches in Alberta, Canada, to observe results of artificial insemination in beef cattle.
- 1967 Again was invited to speak at OSU's Beef Cattle Day.
- 1967 Officially retired as Extension Animal Scientist.
- 1967 Completed 17 years of grading at the Modoc Bull Sale.
- 1968 Speaker at educational field meeting sponsored by the Oregon Hereford Association.



- 1968 Concluded 18 years of close cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association on educational meetings where information on scientific practices of beef production was disseminated.
- 1969 Speaker at field meeting in Klamath Falls, Oregon, sponsored by Ranch Services, Inc.
- 1969 Was employed as efficiency analyst for a beef cattle ranch in Spain, Ganadera Internacional, S.A.
- 1970 Principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Hawaii Beef Cattle Improvement Association.
- 1970 Was recipient of the Golden Fleece Award sponsored by the California Wool Grower's Association.
- 1971 The first edition of Cattle, Country and Champions was printed.
- 1972 The second edition of Cattle, Country and Champions was printed.
- 1973 Appointed as statewide Extension horse specialist.
- 1974 The first edition of Horses and Men was printed.
- 1976 Recipient of award from the Grand National Junior Livestock Exposition and Bank of America for services to agricultural youth in California.
- 1976 Selected to have memoirs recorded by the UC Davis Oral History Center.
- 1977 June 1 - completed 50 years of service to the University of California Cooperative Extension.



## HONORS AND AWARDS

## COMMUNITY SERVICE, 1977

1954 Selected as the California Cattlemen's Association representative,  
Member, Alpha Zeta Swift and Company tour to observe Swift's eastern  
establishments.

Member, Alpha Gamma Rho

1957 Elected Third Vice President to the California association

Technical Advisor, California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA)

Committeeman, California Livestock Symposium, horse section

Committeeman, Livestock Man of the Year, sponsored by the California  
Chamber of Commerce

Member, University of California Davis Faculty Club

President, University of California Davis Emeriti Faculty Club

Director, Central California Federal Savings and Loan Association

1965 Monterey County Cattlemen's Association passed a resolution  
Member, Davis Community Church

Member, Davis Community Church Ark Mariners Group

Member, El Macero Country Club

Member, Woodland Elks Lodge

1970 Received the Golden Fleeca sponsored by the California Wool  
Grower's Association.

1971 Featured as a "Top Hand" in the California Cattlemen magazine.

1972 Honored by the California Cattlemen's Association at their  
annual meeting.

1972 Monterey County Cattlemen's Association again bestowed  
recognition.

1974 Recipient of the "Pioneer Award" sponsored by the Beef  
Improvement Federation (BIF) at their annual meeting in  
Denver, Colorado.

1974 The California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA)  
dedicated their statewide symposium, "COW"-ference, to Albano.

1975 Received Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity testimonial plaque in  
recognition of 50 years' membership.



## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 1954 Selected as the California Cattlemen's Association representative on the Swift and Company tour to observe Swift's eastern establishments.
- 1957 Elected Third Vice President to the California association for the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.
- 1957 Featured in the Alpha Gamma Rho newspaper, "PHI Crescent."
- 1958 Award and gifts received from the Northern California cattlemen's associations.
- 1965 4-H Alumni Award recipient.
- 1965 Received the American Society of Animal Science Extension Award sponsored by Charles Pfizer Company.
- 1965 Monterey County Cattlemen's Associations passed a resolution noting Albaugh's contributions to the livestock industry.
- 1966 Red Bluff Bull Sale named a "Rube Albaugh" day.
- 1967 Recipient of awards and gifts by the following county cattlemen's associations: Lake, Humboldt, Shasta, Siskiyou and Tahoe; also from the Modoc Bull Sale and Humboldt County Wool Growers.
- 1970 Received the Golden Fleece sponsored by the California Wool Grower's Association.
- 1971 Featured as a "Top Hand" in the California Cattleman magazine.
- 1972 Honored by the California Cattlemen's Association at their annual meeting.
- 1972 Monterey County Cattlemen's Association again bestowed recognition.
- 1974 Recipient of the "Pioneer Award" sponsored by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) at their annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.
- 1974 The California Beef Cattle Improvement Association (CBCIA) dedicated their statewide symposium, "COW"-ference, to Albaugh.
- 1975 Received Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity testimonial plaque in recognition of 50 years' membership.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF REUBEN ALBAUGH

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- 1949 Albaugh, R. and H. T. Strong. Selection of dairy and beef calves proves promising in experiments.
- 1976 Selected to have memoirs recorded by the UC Davis Oral History Center.
- 1977 Elected to Life Membership in Woodland Lodge No. 1299 Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.
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Spurlock joined the Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, as assistant farm adviser in Sacramento County in 1918. He became county director in 1930. In 1937 Spurlock transferred to Davis as assistant director with his major responsibilities in the northern counties. He was then Extension livestock specialist and worked closely during that time. Spurlock retired in 1967 and went into farming and consultant work.

His wife Mildred Payton, from Baker, Oregon, is a member of a prominent livestock family and the ranch, now partly owned by the Spurlocks, has been in continuous operation as a cattle ranch by the family for over 100 years.

\* \* \* \*

Julius G. Treseony was born on the Rancho San Lucas Grant in Monterey County, California, and has spent his entire life in that area. He received his early schooling in the San Lucas area and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Santa Clara at the age of eighteen. In 1928 Treseony bought out the bulk of the Treseony family and became owner and manager of Rancho San Lucas. He was the first cattleman in California to practice systematic crossbreeding of beef cattle and pioneered the growing of certified seed under the Cal Approved program. Treseony owns the oldest registered cattle brand in California—it has been used continuously since 1846. The Treseony ranch is a favorite meeting place for educational and demonstrational gatherings on new practices in agriculture, range improvement, and animal husbandry, and has been used as a small experiment station by the University of California for many years. One of the first directors of the California Cattleman's Association and a prominent figure in community affairs, Treseony was chosen Livestock Man of the Year in 1969.

\* \* \* \*

Ken Ellis was born in Indianapolis, Illinois, and was raised on a grain and livestock ranch in the central part of that state. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1936 with a bachelor of science degree in animal science and agricultural economics. Following graduation Ellis was employed by Kraft Foods Division of National Dairy Products Corporation for six years in milk quality and quantity control as a fieldman. Ellis became



John Spurlock was born and raised on a diversified ranch in Covelo, Mendocino County, California. After graduating from high school, he worked in the Comstock Mines at Virginia City, Nevada for three and one-half years while his brothers were finishing at Stanford. In 1923 he entered Oregon State University and joined Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity where he first met Rube Albaugh. They have been close friends and co-workers ever since.

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Julius G. Trescony was born on the Rancho San Lucas Grant in Monterey County, California, and has spent his entire life in that area. He received his early schooling in the San Lucas area and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Santa Clara at the age of eighteen. In 1928 Trescony bought out the heirs of the Trescony family and became owner and manager of Rancho San Lucas. He was the first cattleman in California to practice systematic crossbreeding of beef cattle and pioneered the growing of certified seed under the Cal Approved program. Trescony owns the oldest registered cattle brand in California--it has been used continuously since 1846. The Trescony ranch is a favorite meeting place for educational and demonstrational gatherings on new practices in agronomy, range improvement, and animal husbandry, and has been used as a small experiment station by the University of California for many years. One of the first directors of the California Cattlemen's Association and a prominent figure in community affairs, Trescony was chosen Livestock Man of the Year in 1969.

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Ken Ellis was born in Indianola, Illinois, and was raised on a grain and livestock ranch in the central part of this state. He graduated from the University of Illinois in 1956 with a bachelor of science degree in animal science and agricultural economics. Following graduation Ellis was employed by Kraft Foods Division of National Dairy Products Corporation for six years in milk quality and quantity control as a fieldman. Ellis became



associated with the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of California in 1963 serving as Extension assistant in San Joaquin and Glenn Counties. The following year he was appointed Cooperative Extension livestock and range farm advisor for Tehama County; in 1969 he became the Extension director for that county. Ellis served as Extension animal scientist at UC Davis from 1972-74 followed by two years as director of Cooperative Extension in Fresno County. Ellis returned to UC Davis in 1976 as Extension animal scientist responsible for education and research in livestock production and development.







